



Wimbledon report 'helps both sides'

BOTH sides in the row over the development of Wimbledon town centre claim an inspector's report on the council's town centre plan has backed their case.

A public inquiry is due to start on November 25 to consider Building Design Partnership and Speyhawk's scheme for the Town Hall site, favoured by Merion council, and the Terry Farrell Greycoat plan to develop Hartfield Road and then the Town Hall site, which has the support of local people.

The inspector's report on a local inquiry in June, published this week, recommended that the Hartfield site should be developed immediately — if the land could be assembled — and then the Town Hall site.

This destroyed the council's case according to Shoshona Foster, co-ordinator for the local residents.

But Merion's director of development Chris Carter said the land for the Hartfield site could not be assembled immediately and some difficulties over the Town Hall site had been resolved.

Shark horror

THE owner of a 7m model shark, embedded in the roof of his house, has been ordered to remove it by the local council.

Despite a 3,111-name petition, Oxford City Council has given cinema owner William Heines six months to remove the model because it violates planning regulations.

More tall storeys in Docklands plan

AN outline planning application for two ambitious schemes to replace Brunswick Power Station in London's Docklands by Richard Rogers Partnership will be considered by the London Docklands Development Corporation this week.

Rogers, who has been hired by developer Rosehaugh Stanhope

UJA invites Archbishop Tutu to speak at Brighton

THE controversial black South African cleric, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has been invited to address the UJA conference in Brighton next year.

UJA vice-president Rod Hackney revealed that Tutu had been invited to the "Building Communities" conference at the end of the month, but had been unable to attend due to prior commitments. But Tutu indicated he hoped to accept an invitation to a later event.

Hackney said the archbishop had an interest in, and close contacts with, community architects.

He also knew and understood the needs of some of the most impoverished people in the South African townships.

Hackney was replying to questions from UK Architects

By John Wood

Against Apartheid sent to both RIBA presidential contenders.

The organisation wanted to know why he visited South Africa last year and why he publicly backed South African involvement in the UJA conference next year.

He said he went to South Africa at the request of Reuben Mutoiso, the UJA vice-president for Africa — who as a black Kenyan did not want to visit the country.

While there he delivered an address written by Mutoiso calling on the ISAA to adopt the Warsaw declaration of human rights or the UJA would reconsider the institute's membership.

On South African involvement in the Brighton conference, he said he wanted to hear what community architects are doing in the country and backed

involvement for this reason. Both candidates were asked about the RIBA delaying recognition of South African schools of architecture.

Raymond Andrews said he agreed with the institute's policy while Hackney disagreed.

Andrews said a boycott of building products manufactured by firms with South African interests was imprac-

tical but Hackney said he would back it. But Andrews added that he had sold South African shares because he did not approve of what was happening in the country.

Both candidates said they wanted RIBA money given to South Africa to go to the education of young black architects.

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ABC

Giant retail proposal

Behind these four discreetly sited in Sutton High Street, a 230 million retail development designed by Building Design Partnership is to be submitted for approval on November 21.

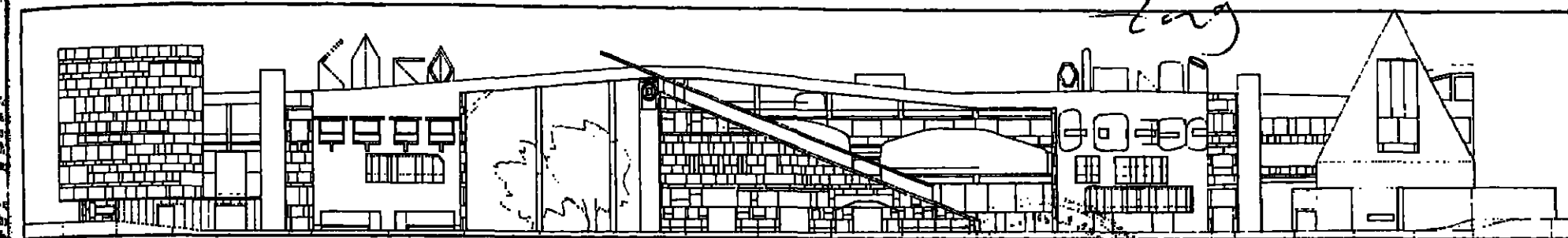
Three levels of shopping — four large stores, 40 smaller, 32 kiosks — are connected by a central atrium which rises through levels to a 25 metre glass dome. Beyond, a two-level footbridge links to a new 750-space multi-car park.

Developer is the Sutton Shopping Partnership (Tom & Co, 10 Brook & Canon Armes, Sutton Borough).

No 814

The weekly newspaper for the design team

NOVEMBER 28 1986



Peter St John and Mark Pimlott have won third prize in the international competition for the 250 million Indira Gandhi Memorial Centre in New Delhi. First prize went to Ralph Lerner, American-based former partner of Richard Rogers, with whom he won the Cherry Garden Pier competition. More than 700 teams registered earlier this year for the brief which required a

70,000sq m complex with arts and crafts centres, a library, a 2,000-seat concert hall and four theatres. The 10ha site forms a key part of Lutyens' grand plan for the capital. St John and Pimlott, both 27, were assisted by Sean O'Callaghan and work with Jeremy Dixon/BDP, through whom the scheme was entered.

The principal south elevation, above, shows (left to right) the experimental theatre, the Jangpada Sompada Museum, conference halls, library, children's museum and puppet theatre. Architect judges on the competition were James Stirling, Purnihiko Makland and former Corbusier assistants B V Doshi and A P Kanwade.

Georgian scheme revamped

FREDERICK Gibberd Coombs have scaled down their controversial designs for a new shopping centre in the heart of the West End, but still face strong opposition from the Royal Fine Art Commission and local businesses.

The architects had prepared a scheme, on behalf of the Co-operative Insurance Society and the City of London Corporation, to redevelop one of the few remaining Georgian areas in Mayfair.

After their scheme for the site, bounded by Avery Row, Brook Street, New Bond Street and Lancashire Court, was rejected by a DOE inspector, FGC went back to the drawing board.

Now they have topped two storeys of offices off the top of the 6,827sq m new building, which would have overshadowed the listed buildings to be retained around the perimeter.

"The design still constitutes an overdevelopment of the site," said an RFAC spokesman. "We don't feel this scheme is acceptable. The site demands a scheme of more modest dimensions."

The bureau decided to call an extraordinary assembly meeting to consider motions on the two

Fee-cutting 'hits clients'

FREE competition is bad for architects and worse for clients, an RICS seminar heard this week. Local authority chief architect Peter Benwell said occupiers would be losers "if we sink to the law of the jungle".

David Hutchinson of Hutchinson Lock & Monk said the architect was being squeezed between contractor and client, but that it would soon be the client who was the loser.

Most speakers thought fee savings were outweighed by worse buildings with higher running costs.

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Call to recognise new architects' institute

SOUTH AFRICANS FACING UJA BAN

THE Institute of South African Architects faces expulsion from the International Union of Architects, following a meeting in London last week.

The UJA's Africa vice-president, Reuben Mutoiso, urged a bureau meeting of the union's other vice-presidents to carry out the expulsion before the world congress to be held in Brighton next July.

He wants a new South African institute, now being formed, to be given observer status at the congress.

The bureau decided to call an extraordinary assembly meeting to consider motions on the two

issues. This will probably be held in Moscow on March 1 to coincide the next UJA council meeting.

The decision was taken after a speech to the bureau by rebel South African architect Hans

Schirmacher, who discussed the reasons for his resignation from the ISAA and the constitution of the new Institute Place (Professional Levellers for African Community and Environment).

He resigned after repeated attempts to persuade the ISAA to adopt the Warsaw declaration on human rights — making it unethical for any architect to design "pro-apartheid" buildings — were blocked by the leadership.

Under South African law,

architects cannot practise unless they are members of the ISAA, but the institute is under the control of the government's minister of community development, and considered by many as being shackled to the apartheid system.

Place's constitution contains commitments to human rights, democratic principles, community service, equal opportunity in education and student participation.

After Saturday's meeting, Schirmacher said he was delighted with the level of support he had received on his latest visit to Europe.

This was in contrast to his last visit when he described the RIBA — of which he is a member — as behaving as if he had architectural leprosy.

Last week he was made a member of the Swedish Institute

so he could address its council, and he had a warm reception from the UJA bureau.

On Sunday he flew to Germany where he was due to meet the leader of the Green party, Petra Kelly.

The bureau's decision to take a vote has come as a relief to Owen Luder, who is chairman of the organising committee for the UJA's 16th World Congress in Brighton on July 13-17 1987.

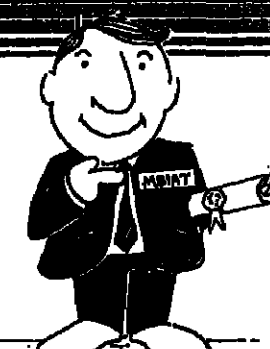
It is believed African members will boycott the event unless the question of the ISAA's continued page 3

While privately it is known that the LDDC's decision has been influenced by the interests of Prince Charles in the area, the corporation's change of heart is seen as a major boost in the group's seven-year campaign.

LDDC spokesman Nick Wates said the trust would have "broad powers to deal with planning issues" but it is not known if it can prevent the British Waterways Board's controversial scheme for Limehouse Basin, designed by Seifert.

It is hoped that BWB and Tower Hamlets council will give the trust land to develop for housing and community use.

design technology project



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BIAT

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Rostrum

Triple entente

Picasso's drawings moved out and the architects moved in. Ian Latham reports on the Foster, Rogers, Stirling open forum at the Royal Academy.



Happy together: Rogers, Foster and Stirling at the Academy. (Photo: Geoff Beekman.)

minutes to describe their approach to the exhibition... and architecture. Foster dispatched his response with characteristic brevity in just 30 seconds. Rogers expanded at length — and had to be stopped after 10 minutes — and Stirling was cheeky, explaining that he had developed his National Gallery extension proposal to the design

development stage, throwing down the challenge to Venturi, who reputedly pipped him to the post and who has yet to release a scheme. Stevens' next question — "Why haven't you all built more in this country?" — set the context for most of the evening's discussion. "You've got to go where the action is," said Foster, adding that "this country is paranoid about change." Rogers sees this as the key problem — and it's not just in architecture. But he believes the fault is not so much with the public as the decision-makers and taste-makers, and his opinions that have to be changed: "We still haven't managed to get the environment

secretary along to the exhibition. Stirling was more circumspect, seeing historical precedent for the "internationalisation" of architects at a certain point in their careers. Foster underlined the need for informed clients with standards who are willing to take part in the two-way process that must be prerequisite for the production of a successful building.

Jencks suggested that architecturally it was a Good Thing that the three had received comparatively few commissions and Rogers agreed there was certainly a danger of building too much. Foster has "never felt happier" than now (he's got jobs in the United States, Mexico, Japan and Europe, so he should be) and had "no regrets" about earlier frustrations (the fact that he reiterated this point three times undermined its meaning somewhat).

Building in Stuttgart had been a "delight" for Stirling, while in London "it was a pain". Patronage, law and technology are all more difficult in this country, Rogers admitted he was lucky with Lloyd's but confessed to being amazed that we should

Fairytale garden for derelict valley site

EBBW Vale has beaten Cardiff, Swansea and Clwyd for the right to mount the 1992 National Garden Festival.

Its £30.8 million proposals include a cable car from the centre of the site to a specially created Welsh castle on the hillside, a dragons' lair and a traditional Welsh village with cottages, workshops, chapel and pub — and mortgages available for those who want to buy homes there.

The 136ha site lies south of Ebbw Vale, between the town and the village of Cwm. It is, says Blaenau Gwent council's chief planner, Lyn Powell, the kind of landscape outsiders think of as typically Welsh: a deep, narrow valley, with the site's highest point some 215 metres above its lowest.

Much of the site is derelict and littered with the debris of demolished steelworks. There is a hillside hinterland with substantial beech woodlands, and a railway serving the existing steelworks, which British Steel has agreed to carry passenger trains to the festival.

The proposals include moulding the tips to allow for arenas and sports areas. The festival area, excluding car parks, will occupy about 61ha. One feature will be a market-place, which will become a garden centre after the festival. There will also be a festival hall, which will be turned into a museum of industrial and trade union history.

Powell stresses that Ebbw Vale's submission has had considerable private sector input. The next step will be to set up a festival company with three working teams: design coordination — to guide the £10.9 million land reclamation — and marketing and finance.

From Berlin a study of derelict sites created by the division of the city by Prussia, Ruppel and Lie Plonk... them as minimal at points requiring a maximum of attention and the minimum of development. Professor Michael... from Stuttgart showed a study, as he described it, to secure the building of a medieval German town.

Ernest Scott's theory of the city as a system for people to live in, and thereby making a relevant design contribution. One shock was the strength and singularity of the historic investigative approach to urban problems reached in some quarters to the exclusion of all other factors. Future typology and morphology seemed destined to be solely based on historical models from southern France.

The language problem was formidable, even if the speakers were fluent in another language, which some were. The problem of meaning was not confined to the meaning of the visual scene, the semantic differences were enormous. In the case of a number of French contributors, any misunderstanding could not be

Camden forced to call in private housebuilders

PRIVATE housebuilders have been asked to "design and build" homes for a leading London council because of the severe shortage of council architects.

Camden's ruling Labour party has agreed to ask national housebuilders, including Ideal Homes and Wimpey, to tender for three sites in the borough as part of Camden's housing programme.

The council claims that "design and build" shortens the normal design process and is more economical. "We have a huge shortage of architects — some 80 vacancies — and design schemes completed when we do not have the resources in-house," said Steve Bevington, chairman of the housing management committee.

Other local authorities in London, including Islington, Hammersmith and Fulham, Greenwich and Haringey, said they were overcoming staff shortages with help from outside practices, but they would not give work to developers.

Greenwich council — which advertised for 300 staff in August — has made only six appointments, despite over 1,500 applications.

A spokeswoman blamed the delay on council inefficiency. She said it was proving "very slow" to create new posts. Islington council has increased its architects' department by 30 per cent in the last

COUNCILS FACING STAFFING CRISIS

Architects' public sector pay and conditions

BD's report — July 4.

A council spokeswoman said in-house architects would still have a say in the design of the homes, with the developers tendering to an outline scheme prepared by council workers.

As revealed in BD (July 4), London councils face a severe shortage of architects, only partially relieved by massive recruitment drives.

Camden's director of architecture John Wade blamed the problem on low salaries. But so far no salary increase has been announced.

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Fleet Street facadism

YRM have won planning consent from the City Corporation for their 29,500sq m scheme to replace News International's old complex in Fleet Street. The Fleet Street facades will be retained, but placed at one point by a covered passage leading to a courtyard behind.

The far side of this courtyard would be formed by the curved entrance to the 26,250sq m main building in the scheme. This will follow the uneven line of Whitefriars Street and Yvonne Street down towards the Thames.

Two 4.2m high double floors will be topped by a 7-storey atrium abutting the light in the upper office floors. The piled and steel-framed composite structure will have a granite and metal skin.

Patten's palliative

HOUSING minister John Patten has announced a £24 million package for 12 schemes to help tackle rundown and crime-ridden council estates.

The 12 schemes — in the London boroughs of Brent, Lewisham, Wandsworth and in Derby, Leicester, Sheffield, South Tyneside, Langbaurgh and Gateshead — have been funded by the DoE urban housing renewal unit.

According to John Wheatley of CMW: "Our scheme cascades down across London Wall. Only three storeys bridge over the street".

The bulk of CMW's scheme, some 14 storeys, is confined to the 1 London Wall site. The scheme will also provide an extension to the Museum of London.

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Ban on South Africa?

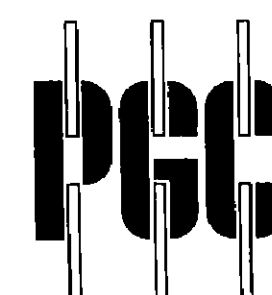
From page 1 membership is resolved. Luder commented: "We are delighted the UJA has grasped the nettle and agreed to tackle the issue head on."

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, has been invited to speak at the Brighton Congress.

Bob Geldof and architect and fellow Band Aid organiser Kevin Jenden have also been invited to speak on third world development issues.

BR plan

BRITISH Rail has applied to demolish Bournemouth station and rebuild a new transport interchange, offices and shops complex as part of its £55million modernisation plan for the Bournemouth-Weymouth line.



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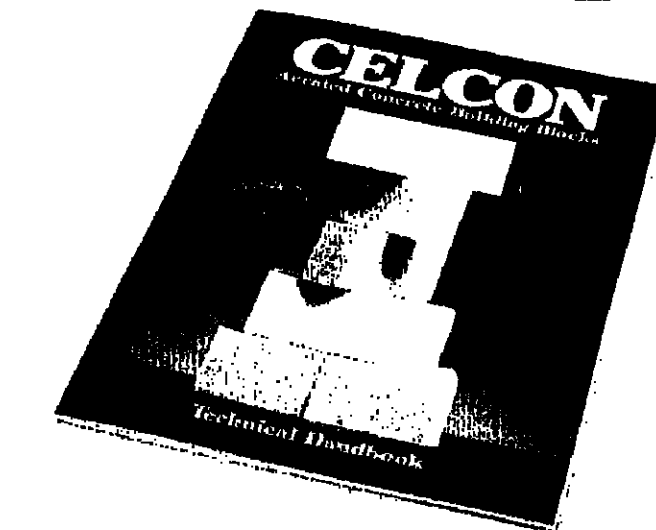
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The conference also organises a Patent Glazing Architectural Design Award with a trophy and a £1,000 prize for the winning architect or practice. For details of entry and any other information on Patent Glazing write to The Director, Peter Glider, The Patent Glazing Conference, 13 Upper High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT7 4QY, or telephone Epsom (STD 03727) 29191.

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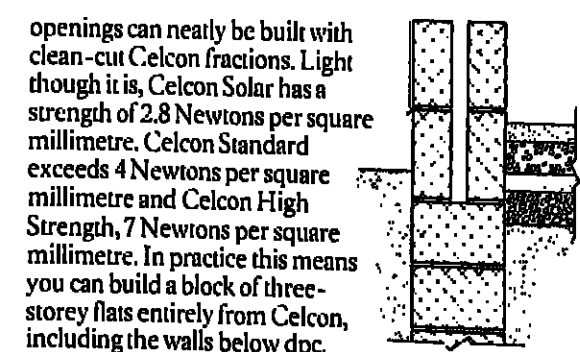
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City dialogue

Robert Smart crossed the language barrier report on a European urban design initiative

THE University of Florence recently hosted the first European meeting of academics involved in teaching urban design. The meeting's title, "The Identity of the urban environment: teaching experiences of urban design", did not mean the same to all the participants, and as a result the widest possible range of interest in the subject was represented.

Professor Piero Paoli of Florence led the seminar, and was elected chairman of what I hope will become an annual event. Three and a half days and some 35 papers later, members emerged back into the historic ambience of sunny Florence, having agreed that the meeting was worthwhile, the dialogue on urban design must continue, and the meeting should be at the same place next year.

It was possible to divide the participants into a number of groups. The first and most obvious was the north/south European philosophical and semantic division. This was characterised by the painstaking imperial research and method of the northmen and the elaborate ideological theoretical (their hypotheses) pronouncements of the southerners. Alternatively, there was a three-way split. Some were still using urban design as an excuse for big architecture in a city context, in such a way that they will destroy each other. Others, displaying the work of final-year students, used the urban context to discipline their product. A third group sought to develop a more holistic approach by developing practice and theory as a tool for understanding the city as a system for people to live in, and thereby making a relevant design contribution.

One shock was the strength and singularity of the historic investigative approach to urban problems reached in some quarters to the exclusion of all other factors. Future typology and morphology seemed destined to be solely based on historical models from southern France.

The language problem was formidable, even if the speakers were fluent in another language, which some were. The problem of meaning was not confined to the meaning of the visual scene, the semantic differences were enormous. In the case of a number of French contributors, any misunderstanding could not be

placed at the door of the simultaneous translators, for I understood their complex usage. Between the changes of 1968, post structuralism, there were, with a few exceptions, a world of their own.

The struggle for some, a feeling that an architectural approach was not sufficient, dealt with something that was explained by systems that perhaps it is the very real, historical context that makes them feel that hangovers are not enough. The next step will be to set up a festival company with three working teams: design coordination — to guide the £10.9 million land reclamation — and marketing and finance.

From Berlin a study of derelict sites created by the division of the city by Prussia, Ruppel and Lie Plonk... them as minimal at points requiring a maximum of attention and the minimum of development. Professor Michael... from Stuttgart showed a study, as he described it, to secure the building of a medieval German town.

Insurance company plans largest City office scheme

THE Prudential has announced plans for one of the largest office schemes ever earmarked for the City of London.

The GMW Partnership is to design a 81,000sq m building for the insurance company close to the City core on a 1.2ha site bounded by Mincing Lane, Great Tower Street, Mark Lane and Dunster Court.

A planning application is to be submitted by the Pru early next year and it has served notices to quit on the tenants in the five buildings on the site.

Work should start on site in 1988 with completion in 1990. Most of the large buildings planned for Big Bang tenants are on the east City fringes, so this fairly central site on the south side is very valuable.

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The scheme could be worth as much as £400 million, making it the most valuable asset in the Prudential portfolio.

The imminent departure of one of the major tenants on the site — Her Majesty's Customs & Excise — to Sea Containers House on the south side of the river — was over one of the factors triggering the scheme.

According to Jonathan Weymouth, project development surveyor for the Prudential, the scheme GMW are preparing uses a plot ratio of about 6:1.

Covell Matthews Wheatley, who were also competing to design the Prudential's scheme, have prepared a 24,750sq m scheme bridging the eastern end of London Wall.

Canadian developer, Markborough Properties and the Plasterers Livery Company have joined forces to develop 1 London Wall and the Plasterers Livery Hall.

The scheme would conflict with the 37,170sq m scheme prepared and submitted for outline application by RMJM for Stuart Lipton.

According to John Wheatley of CMW: "Our scheme cascades down across London Wall. Only three storeys bridge over the street".

The bulk of CMW's scheme, some 14 storeys, is confined to the 1 London Wall site. The scheme will also provide an extension to the Museum of London.

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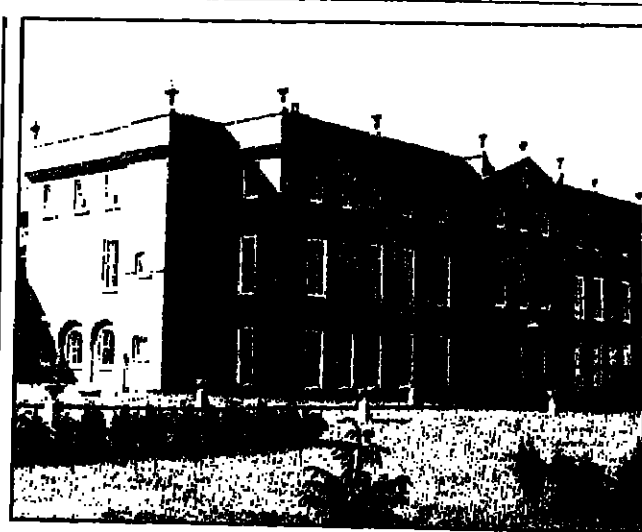
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Building for the future

STIERIAN Cantacuzino, secretary of the Royal Fine Art Commission, will chair a one day symposium at the Royal Academy on December 12 in conjunction with the Foster, Rogers, Stirling exhibition.

Entitled "Building for a better future: London in the year 2000", speakers will include Terry Farrell, Richard Rogers and Leon Krier on London, François Chaslin on Paris, David Mackay on Barcelona and Geoffrey Bradman and Jules Lubbock on the politics of planning.

Tickets, including coffee, lunch and an evening reception in the exhibition galleries, are £35 each (£15 for students), available from the Education Department, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1V 0DS.



Hi-tech conversion finds favour

The conversion of the Georgian mansion at Dogmersfield Park, Hampshire, into the European headquarters of the Amdahl Corporation has won the 1986 Research Council's award for environmental planning at the Industrial Development Award.

The mansion and its stables, plus the surrounding landscape is Grade II (star)-listed and the GTP scheme had to be a true reconstruction of the historic building.

Incorporated are lifts, raised floors and air-conditioning—all the trappings required by a hi-tech multinational company. Consultant architect Robert Adam advised on the correct 'classical' elevational treatment. Developer was Sheffield Investment.

Ridley steps into inquiry over Canary Wharf plan

ENVIRONMENT secretary Nicholas Ridley has decided to settle a public inquiry into designs for Wood Wharf, because of their possible effect on Canary Wharf proposals.

The developer, which was planning to build on Wood Wharf in London's Docklands, has threatened to drag the whole

case through the High Court if a decision is not given in its favour.

In early 1985 Wicker Construction prepared a light industrial scheme for the 1.3ha site for the owners — the Port of London Authority.

The London Docklands Development Corporation indicated that it approved the scheme in principle and advised Wicker on the format of an enterprise zone application.

But then the Canary Wharf Consortium announced its

By Alan Thompson

intentions to build a massive financial centre and, Wicker claims, the LDDC shelved its scheme.

The corporation is now seeking to compulsorily purchase the land to build a four-lane access road serving the financial centre.

Wicker, which employed in-house architects for the scheme, reconsidered the plans after the road proposals were put forward. The developer re-examined uses for Wood Wharf and the LDDC indicated that in principle, it would consider an office-type development.

Wicker put forward new plans which included a 10-storey office development on the site. A formal planning application was submitted in August 1986 and is still before the LDDC.

In November 1985, there had been no determination of the Wicker planning application and an appeal was submitted.

The appeal was finally heard on October 22 before a DoE inspector. But Ridley has now taken the unusual step of saying he will consider the evidence and give a decision himself.

'Reform housing finance'

BRITAIN'S current system of housing finance urgently needs an overhaul according to a report, the national campaign of the homeless.

Henry Aughton, dep. chairman of Shelter and author of *Housing Finance—abuse, not reform*, said: "This country is facing serious and worsening housing crisis borne out by such dire reports as the *Quality in housing*, and *Fault in the city*."

"Improvements will come about through reform of the housing finance system rather than through piecemeal adjustments to tenures in isolation," he said.

John Patten's recent attempts to encourage private funding for housing associations, and Neil Kinnock's proposals for a fairer distribution of mortgage tax relief have one thing in common—they fail to grasp the nature of overall housing finance reform and merely tinker with one facet of the problem.

Housing finance—abuse, not reform is available from Shelter, 15 Waterloo Road, London SE1 1JF. Price £3.95.

Coates lecture

NIGEL Coates, whose practice with Doug Branson is flourishing in London and Japan, will give a lecture at the RIBA on December 2 at 6.15pm. Coates will be talking about some of his recently completed projects in London, including the Jasper Conran shop and in Tokyo, the Parco Bongo cafe, a jazz club and a shop for Takeo Kikuchi in the shell of a new building by Tadao Ando. He will also be showing a range of furniture soon to be launched in Japan.

Design team

A \$15 million interior design contract for the new HQ of Australia's largest building society has gone to a new joint venture between UK-based David Hicks International and Australian architects Peddle Thorpe & Walker.

Australian firm rescues curtain wall company

ELEMETA, the curtain wall manufacturer which recently went into receivership, has been taken over by an Australian company, Commercial Industries.

Commercial Industries has injected £7 million into the ailing Elemeta, £5 million of which

Research awards

APPLICATIONS are being invited for 1987 RIBA research awards.

The awards, which are usually between £500 and £5,000, are offered by the RIBA under the terms of the Modern Architecture & Town Planning Trust and the Historical Research Trust.

Further details are available from Michael Simpson, RIBA Research Section, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Closing date is March 1, 1987.

was spent acquiring the freehold of its new factory at Southall, west London.

The remaining £2 million will be the resurrected Elemeta's working capital. The deal has been agreed with the receiver and Elemeta will be renegotiating its existing contracts.

Ex-managing director Eddie Seddon has been replaced by Andrew Brown, while the new chief executive is Viv Davidson. Davidson says Elemeta will be moving immediately back into the bespoke curtain walling market "reversing Elemeta's decision of 10 months ago".

"We feel the Germans, Swiss and Belgians are getting too much of the market", said Davidson, "we will be going at their markets as well".

● BRIGGS Amasco, part of Tarmac, has bought what was formerly Elemeta Fyrespan, a division of Elemeta specialising in glazed, fire-rated screens, doors and curtain wall systems.

American practice launches flotation on British market

AMERICAN architects Tribble Harris Li are about to launch their company on the UK Unlisted Securities Market to raise between £4 and £5 million.

The firm will be the third architectural practice to join the USM, but, capitalised at £14 million, it is considerably larger than its British predecessors, Whinney Mackay Lewis and D Y Davies.

Tribble Harris Li are the latest in a growing queue of American



Left to right: Gerald Li, Joseph Harris and Michael Tribble.

ting for a project in Docklands", said Li.

A London office is to be set up next year and this could be a springboard for Tribble Harris Li's ambitions in Europe.

The firm specialises in three main services—designing large mixed use schemes (such as those planned for Docklands), interior design and major office developments.

Li cites the practice's work on Saatchi & Saatchi's headquarters building at 375 Hudson

Limited success

POLLARD Thomas Edwards & Associates are going limited on December 1.

The new company, Pollard Thomas & Edwards Architects, will have a share capital of £10,000 and its four associates Harry Christophides, Brian Johnson, Mike Lynch, and Peter Mason are being made directors.

'Cashless' development corporations planned

THE Government wants to set up more urban development corporations in addition to the four announced last month.

Dubbed "cashless" because the DoE has no more money available after allocating between £100 million and £160 million over 6 to 7 years for the original four, the new corporations would still have sweeping planning powers.

Although locations have yet to be announced, they would be in areas such as the East Midlands and cities like Leicester, Nottingham and Derby.

Opposition from local authorities is likely to be strong, but the corporations are not expected to be set up before the next election.

The corporations would be

planning authorities in their own right and have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers.

The corporations form another part of environment secretary Nicholas Ridley's plans to take development pressure off land in the South-east to foster regeneration in the older cities.

Erratum

ARDIN Brookes & Partners have designed Greycoat's scheme for the Hartfield Road site in Wimbledon, not Terry Farrell as reported last week. The Terry Farrell Partnership have designed Greycoat's scheme for the Town Hall site.

SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to the best student in the month travelling scholarship programme to study the repair of historic buildings. RIBA Part II or other professional equivalent.

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Closing date: 12th Jan 1987

Bradman application refused

MULTI-millionaire financier Geoffrey Bradman has had his application to demolish a 1920s house in Hampstead refused.

Local protesters consider that Bradman's replacement scheme—designed by architect William Bertram—would be too big for the site.

The decision by Barnet councillors to reject the scheme goes against advice from their own officers. The application will be considered by Barnet's planning committee this week.



Festive feel

LONDON'S Trocadero shopping and restaurant complex in Piccadilly has been given the full Christmas treatment, in the form of 4,000 lights and 30 ft trees.

The building's festive facelift follows a £13,500, four week contract by Mansell building maintenance specialists.

Repair scheme gets cash aid

THE Government has said it will meet half the cost of a new £6 million scheme to help homeowners tackle repairs.

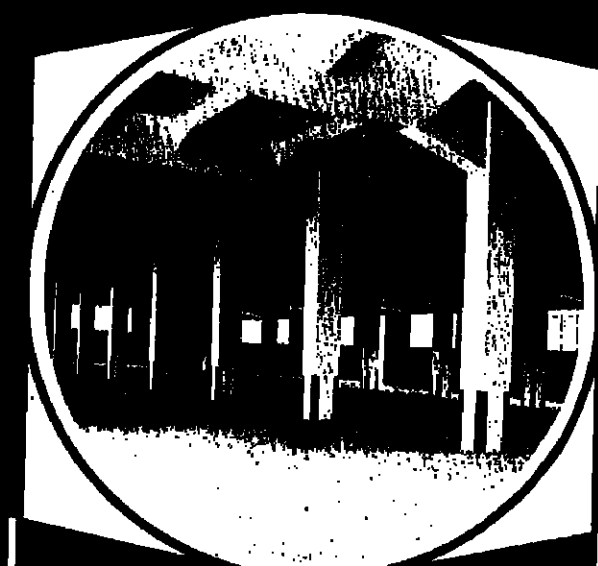
In partnership with the private and voluntary sectors, the Government aims to set up 50 centres offering practical advice

and help, particularly to the elderly, by the end of next year.

Half the agencies will be set up with the National Home Improvement Council and the others started with Care & Repair, Anchor Housing Trust and voluntary bodies.

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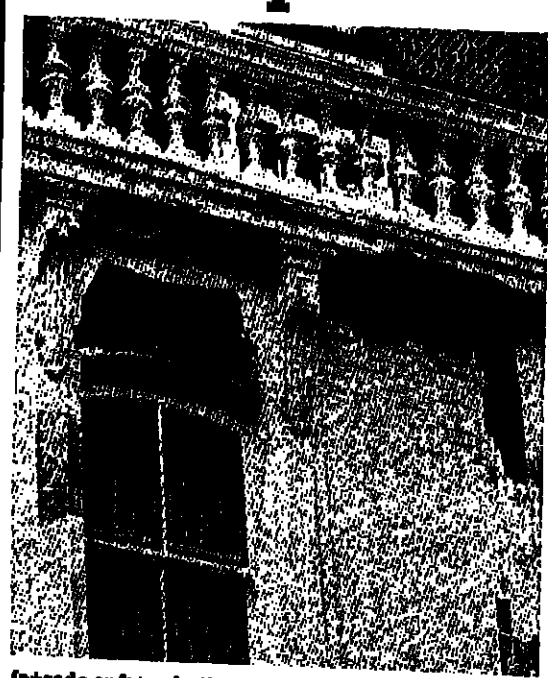
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fa-*ciade* or fa-*çade* (f'e-*siad*, f'e-*siad*) n. 1. the face of a building, esp. the main front. 2. a front or outer appearance, esp. a deceptive one. (C17: from French, from Italian *facciata*, from *facce* face).

re-*in-state* (r'i-n-'stet) vb. (tr.) to restore to a former rank or condition. —re-*in-state-ment* n. —re-*in-state-ment* n. and (re-*in-state-ment* and, en) conf. (coordinating) 1. along with; in addition to: boys and girls. 2. as a consequence; he fell down and cut his knee. 3. afterwards; we pay the man and go through that door. 4. (preceded by good or nice) (intensifier): the sauce is good and thick. 5. plus; two and two equals four. 6. used to join identical words or phrases to give better; we ran and ran; it rained and rained. 7. used to join two identical words or phrases to express a contrast between instances of what is named: there are jobs and jobs.

re-*pair* (r'i-pa) vb. (tr.) 1. to restore (something damaged or broken) to good condition or working order. 2. to heal (a breach or division) in (something): to repair a broken marriage. 3. to make good or make amends for (a mistake, injury, etc.). n. 4. the act, task, or process of repairing. 5. a part that has been repaired. 6. state or condition in good repair. (C14: from Old French *reparer*, from Latin *reparare*, from *re-* + *parare* to make ready) —re-*pair-a-ble* adj. —re-*pair-a-ble* adj.

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Ridley urges inner city incentives

GOVERNMENT policy must aim to restore the competitiveness of inner cities, according to environment secretary Nicholas Ridley who was speaking at the "Cities 2000" conference in London last week.

"We must invest sticks and carrots which both take the pressure off the South of England and make the regenerated older cities attractive to business," he said.

In the aftermath of the urban riots of the last few years, which have focused attention on the "inner city" areas, it has been "almost forgotten that the majority of inner city areas do not conform to that model", Ridley said.

According to Ridley, there is a need to cool the emotional temperature and seriously consider solutions tailored to the different problems of each inner city area.

Ridley's policies therefore are aimed at providing a range of

initiatives rather than imposing "a grand national plan".

Reform of the rating system is a major part of Government policy and has been promised for many years. "It is crazy to have a major tax on businesses levied at three times the rate on a business

in a northern inner city as on an identical business in the South-east", he said.

The Government is aiming for a unified business rate which would bring neutrality. Ridley made no mention of when this might happen.

Land price rises in the east work in favour of cities, and planning policy be used, said Ridley, to encourage developers to build in inner cities. This also has been assisted by the creation of areas, such as enterprise zones, and simplified planning procedures. Ridley says his Office "designed to yield more buildings", they are needed, to yield homes.

Mercouri announces Acropolis competition

MELINA Mercouri, Greece's minister of culture, has announced a competition to design a £13 million archaeological museum at the base of the Acropolis in Athens.

The competition will be open to architects all over the world and details are to be revealed next year.

The museum is to be built by 1996 and will house artefacts from the fifth century BC Parthenon and other monuments on the Acropolis.

These are crowded into a basement museum on the south-east side of the famous hill or stored away for lack of space.

Mercouri says she is "certain" that the museum will eventually house the Elgin Marbles, for whose return she has campaigned for the last five years.

The new museum, she said, "will assist our crusade to bring the Parthenon marbles home".

Britain turned down an appeal from Athens to return part of the marbles last year.

Commission pours scorn on design for BBC site

THE Royal Fine Art Commission says it has "no confidence" in the BBC's design for its new headquarters at White City.

The commission's scathing attack follows earlier criticism, by the RIBA, which urged the

broadcasting corporation to introduce "an architect of quality".

After several meetings with BBC governors, the RFAC agreed that "the unique opportunity of producing a building of great architectural merit for use by the BBC has been missed".

Norman Foster, who was originally hired by the BBC, was dropped after the cost of his replacement scheme for Langham Place touched the £100 million mark.

But the commission says the question of why another major architect was not appointed, instead of the proposed design and build team, has "never been satisfactorily answered".

Design and build, says the commission is a commercial procedure "which negates the

essentials of true patronage and which is fraught with difficulties and carries a high risk of failure".

The BBC claims that essential cost-cutting, and the need to get the building in use before 1988 had been the reason for using a design and build team.

The initial stages of the design (October 3) have been carried

Presidents at Portland Place

THIS week's clash at the RIBA headquarters between presidential candidates Rod Hackney and Raymond Andrews — and their more amicable running-mates — did not produce a clear winner, and some RIBA members have subsequently voiced their complaints about the quality of the debate.

Hackney is clearly a more charismatic politician wielding a strong appeal based on a bedrock of rapid change, not to say revolution. But are his policies capable of implementation? Andrews perhaps misses the point when he claims Hackney does not have any policies.

More relevant is the comment that Hackney will have to persuade the RIBA Council of his ambitions for the profession. Council, Andrews maintains, is where the reins of power lie.

Rather like President Reagan's current problems with the Senate, and more recently the House of Representatives, Hackney may enjoy a wide support outside Portland Place but would be stifled from within — at least until the membership of council reflected his approach.

Over 9,350 votes have not been cast and a close contest is forecast. Billed as the presidential election of the century, both sides were expected to come out fighting.

In what was clearly intended as a one-two punch, Andrews' running-mate Fred Roche was to have outlined nine policies stating Andrews' position. He ran out of time. Had he finished he might have painted a much more solid picture of the RIBA's current aims.

Hackney, as iconoclast, slapped criticism all over the RIBA with a broad brush, but lacked the detail that the audience had received, unfortunately only in part, from Roche. Nevertheless he won his applause from the floor because of his clearer, albeit more general presentation. "One of the reasons I'm standing is to restore democracy to this place," he declared.

On the face of it this is a much more attractive statement than to maintain, as Andrew had to, that the RIBA is indeed a democratic place. Hackney arguably won the debate on the seductions of his radical ticket while Andrews struggled manfully to match this by extolling the virtues of progressive change.

This election has at its heart

In the first of two reports on the RIBA presidential debate, Lee Mallett describes their meeting at Portland Place. Overleaf, John Wood interviews the candidates.

two entirely different styles — a point emphasised by Hackney.

Hackney is arrogant enough to be convinced that he can motivate members — even to the extent of managing to get a full council to meet. For Andrews to claim that Hackney's "seductive rhetoric" is nothing more than a point only too apparent to rank and file members — that someone who can project a strong personal image is more likely to be able to project the image of the profession.

Really the choice boils down to clear, democratically worked out policies from the Andrews camp versus charisma, idealism and stronger leadership from Hackney.

A long evening (it didn't end until 9pm) had some lively moments, much appreciated by the audience — the Jarvis Hall was about three-quarters full.

Most of these concerned Freudian slips on the part of the speakers, who all seemed determined to use each other's names by mistake. The classic example was David Rock, who concluded his speech by intoning that at a time like this we needed a man like... Raymond! "like a hole in the head", he eventually adlibbed.

Speeches from the floor included the statutory lecture-cum-question from Jake Brown, and a pointed intervention from ex-president Gordon Graham, who challenged Hackney's assertion that the institute had ignored the matter of indemnity and liability. Rod wriggled. Gordon struck again. Rod managed to keep talking without conceding anything. Could he be a Teflon president?



Hackney — broad brush.



Andrews — democratic.



Rock and Roche — amicable.



BUILDING DESIGN

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The Editor's Comment



take note of the time when the heavy lorries travel to meat and fish markets, you generally find it is outside the busy periods. Admittedly in the case of Covent Garden the traffic was difficult, but it is any less congested these days than it was?

It is an unintended irony on the part of many developers and their architects that the life they envisage putting back into the city is precisely the life which they are removing in the process of development. Out with the old, in with the British Tourist Authority.

Architectural & Construction BOOKSHOP

The books listed below are available through the Architectural & Construction Bookshop. A special service for readers provided by Morgan-Grampian Construction Press.

1. The Fireplace Book by Roxana McDonald. A practical guide, encompassing both functional and aesthetic considerations, to fireplace design, maintenance and restoration. Price £19.95.

2. Building Regulations Explained and Illustrated (Seventh edition) by Powell-Smith and Hittington. Covers the new 1985 Regulations for all building types for England and Wales, with extensive illustrations and references to regulations and Approved Documents. Price £14.50 (paperback).

3. Perspectives. An anthology of 1001 architectural quotations. Foreword by Sir Hugh Casson. Cartoons by Louis Hellman. Edited by Charles Knevit. Price £8.95 (inc. p&p).

4. The Classical Orders of Architecture by Robert Chitham. Immaculate line drawings and informative captions explaining the origins, development and practical usage of all the classical architectural elements. Invaluable to designers and fascinating for their clients. Price £16.45.

5. The Architect's Guide to Fee Negotiations by Roy Moxley. Competitive fee tendering has now become a reality of architectural practice. This book sets out all the items that have to be negotiated at each stage. Price £18.65.

6. Construction Project Management using Small Computers by Glen Peters. As well as explaining the principles of project management, this book explains how they can be applied on small computers and which particular systems are most suitable. Price £15.35.

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10. Specification 85 by David Martin. Eighty-second edition of this annual reference source for architects and specifiers in the construction industry. Volume 5 is a commissioned new volume devoted entirely to specification clauses. The six volumes set is supplied in a library box. Price £57.50.

Building Design Ensalble. A compendium of the technical pages published in Building Design under that name between 1983 and 1985. Covering a wide range of design methods, techniques & materials. Prepared by architects Haverstock Associates the book will be an invaluable aid to anyone whose business is designing buildings. Price £17.00 (inc. p&p).

LONDON ENERGY GROUP DATA BOOK AND DIARY 1987. A slim pocket diary — month to month with 32 pages of data on energy in buildings compiled by Jack Peach ex Technical Secretary of CIBSE. A first edition in 1987 this could be your most valuable acquisition for it contains most of the U-values, degree days, appliance efficiencies and other energy data you need from day to day. The project has financial support from RIBA and CIBSE. Order now to reserve your copy for November delivery. Price £4.60 (inc. VAT) (Discounted prices available for multiples of ten copies or more with practice or company logo as an extra).

14. Design Liability in the Construction Industry (Second edition) by D. L. Cornes. Includes extensive new material on the law of professional negligence including the latest cases after *Pirelli*. Price £19.00.

15. AJ Introduction and Complete Index to the 1985 Building Regulations Briefly explains what are the main changes; how to find all the references to any subject; a checklist of which British Standards are invoked by each section plus unique detailed subject index to every topic covered. Price £8.25.

16. JCT Intermediate Form of Contract: an architect's guide. By David Chappell and Vincent Powell-Smith. Practical advice for the architect, clearly set out in sample letters, flow-charts and tables. Studies the roles of each party involved and covers important topics such as claims and payment in depth. Price £19.80.

17. Construction Law Reports. A new series reporting decisions of the Official Referees Court which are binding on the whole industry. All members of the construction team must keep up to date with these decisions. Available as a subscription: 3 volumes a year £45.00.

18. Archi-lets Postcards 2 sets of 8 colour cartoons by Louis Hellman. Set 1: Wright, Le Corbusier (twice), Aalto, Foster, Graves, Miles and Stirling. Set 2: Chubb, Mackintosh, Ralph Erskine, Bruce Goff, Charles Moore, Leon Krier, Terry Farrell and Philip Johnson. Price Set 1: £2.50; Set 2: £2.50.

19. Monsters Carumbles. A cartoon guide to architecture. Edited by Charles Knevit. Price £4.95 (inc. p&p).

20. Handbook for Clerk of Works (Third Edition) by GLC Department of Architecture and Civic Design. This Third Edition provides step-by-step guidance on the carrying out of all the duties of the Clerk of Works. Price £12.05.

By Amanda Baillieu

essentials of true patronage and which is fraught with difficulties and carries a high risk of failure".

The BBC claims that essential cost-cutting, and the need to get the building in use before 1988 had been the reason for using a design and build team.

The initial stages of the design (October 3) have been carried



After a £3 million facelift Oxford's Westgate shopping centre has been transformed by Chapman Taylor from an out-dated shopping centre to a thriving new shopping complex.

Features include the installation of new malls and entrances, new tiled floors and the extensive use of graphics to give the centre a new look. Previously the haunt of vandals and drunks, the centre has now been enclosed and heated, with 24-hour security, closed circuit TV and other monitoring.



Layman's language

THE Access Committee for England has published *A layman's guide to the interpretation of architects' drawings*.

The guide is for disabled people in local access groups who need to monitor planning and building regulation applications, and others concerned with the built environment.

Copies are available, price £2.50, from Access Committee for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P3 BJ.

Watchdog warning

A MANCHESTER-based sports-watchdog has claimed that plans to build shopping malls in the suburbs will destroy cities and widen the "have-nots" gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots".

The group says that 40 per cent of Greater Manchester households do not own cars. And people without transport will be left with no alternative service as traditional shopping centre shops deteriorate.

Interviews

As the RIBA election campaign reaches its climax, John Wood talks to both candidates

Andrews hits out hard

WHEN it comes to organisational ability, the RIBA Council has probably made the best choice of presidential candidate.

But to exercise that talent Raymond Andrews has first to beat the supreme media performer, Rod Hackney — and in public relations terms, it is not actual votes cast, Andrews has to be a rank outsider.

The contest has been the most bitter battle ever, but Andrews will take none of the blame for this.

"When Rod launched his campaign he publicly sacked David Atwell. That personal attack changed the whole scene and it set off on that footing," says Andrews.

He found this attack on an innocent bystander unacceptable, but since then Andrews has certainly been making the running in the mud-slinging stakes calling Hackney unbalanced, a churlish, a second-

hand car salesman and comparing him to Liverpool militant Derek Hutton and miners' leader Arthur Scargill.

Despite the abuse Andrews claims he does not hate Hackney. "In fact he even proposed me for president of the RIBA several years ago," he recalls.

Falsehoods

Still, the council's choice says that Hackney's campaign has been based on a series of falsehoods.

He has exaggerated RIBA secretary Patrick Harrison's salary and perks by 80 per cent and misrepresented proposals to increase the institute's membership, says Andrews.

His obvious qualities are his experience in the RIBA bureaucracy and the organisational skill vividly displayed in his stewardship of the 1984 festival of architecture.

"I have displayed the ability to organise a large, innovative event nationwide," he says.

"We ran the world's first festival of architecture, attracting 1,500 events nationwide and £1 million from the building industry, in something which allowed the membership to participate across the country."

"That was the institute at its best. It required persuasion, diplomacy, resolution, determination and persistence over a long period."

He believes the institute needs fine tuning and that he is the man

to do the job.

"Everybody thinks the institute is a shambles — it's not. It needs a radical change like a hole in the head."

"What it needs is sharpening up. Modern skills and techniques in both administration and the political office."

And, says Andrews, the institute needs to sharpen its response to national government, local government and to Parliament.

One area where he admits the RIBA has failed the profession is education.

"With hindsight we made a mistake," he says of council's decision that there were too many architects, eventually leading to the closure of two architecture schools.

He believes the institute needs fine tuning and that he is the man

to do the job.

He believes some of the damage caused is irreparable.

Of the many lecturers who have left the institute he says: "You are not going to get them back. But you may well get young people joining from scratch and this is what the branches are finding."

He feels the way to recruit the students is to foster links between the regional branches and the schools.

He defends the institute's record on membership.

Members

"We have a higher percentage of architects belonging to RIBA than doctors belonging to the British Medical Association, he says."

Hackney tries for double-first

IT is a sad commentary on the state of the RIBA that Rod Hackney is classified as a radical candidate for its presidency.

Hackney, a classical establishment figure — friend of royalty, successful wealthy entrepreneur, senior vice-president of the UIA — is hardly in the same vein as, say, Ken Livingstone.

As he says rather charitably: "We are still working in the 1960s. The RIBA needs to bring itself in to the 1980s before we get in to the next century."

The institute has a grave imbalance of "tired old men" as he calls them, and needs to cater for the young if it is to correct this potentially fatal condition.

"Young people would respond if the RIBA backed community architecture instead of saying it does when it does not," he suggests.

"For the RIBA to say one of its four platforms next year is community architecture and it only allocates £30,000 of a £3.5 million budget is unbelievable."

And students are unlikely to flock to the institute unless it can persuade lecturers to return and convince them that it is backing education.

The key to this, says Hackney, is to persuade government that we need more architects not less, so that the policy of cutting intakes can be opposed. He has not given up hope of saving the schools at North East London Polytechnic and Huddersfield either.

"Where are we going to put the students from Huddersfield and NELP when the other schools are being told to cut their intakes?" he asks. "I think we need more schools of architecture. We need 7-8,000 architects over the next 10 years."

Hackney dismisses criticism that he cannot possibly be president of the UIA and RIBA simultaneously. He reckons the UIA president is largely a figurehead and the post would only take 15-20 days a year. This compares to the 40-50 days he spends presently as Western Europe president (where RIBA president Larry Rolland serves under him on the committee, he notes with a mischievous grin) and the first vice-president of the UIA.

For the RIBA presidency he has allocated two days a week. "I know Larry is a full-time president, but at the end of Larry's term one has to ask what

has he achieved?"

He believes the members' against the proposed merger: the collection and analysis of the put it to a referendum — the necessary £5 million has been raised. "He does not however, that the institute has no plans to sell any drawings finance the move."

Despite his many disagreements with the RIBA, he believes he would be able to work with secretary Paul Harrison, although he does share Raymond Andrews' desire to move him to a political role.

"I'm not too sure Paul is the right level to influence members of Parliament and senior mandarins," he says. "He had been on the ball, but not have had the problem of the Director of Fair Trade with the reduction of the 'mandatory' fee to a rather humorous word, 'recommended'."

Hackney trends a bit between self-belief and over-criticism. He has described himself as a dictator with a conscience. He denies this by saying: "Conscience requires leadership. It is the thing they understand in a platform of democracy."

Others have accused him of exploiting his staff. "The criticism would have been rightly levelled at me five years ago — we could not afford to pay them," he retorts.

"Now we find we can afford to pay them through our own activities and there are no complaints." He denies that he would be the first millionaire president although he is worth about his wealth and says that he draws a salary from his own companies. He is also defenceless about his relationship with the Prince of Wales.

He denies being the Prime Minister's adviser, adding that anyone who knows Charles knows that he writes his own speeches. He adds: "One of our best friends is Prince Charles. He is treated by the RIBA. He should be welcomed."

Hackney has little doubt that he will win the election but he won't give up. How would he approach the presidency?

"Most presidents are glad to get out of the job, but I think I would enjoy it because I would see the job as an opportunity, not as many presidents see it, as an achievement."

Scorpio



Leaving the Labour Party line behind

PROMOTERS of the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands have hired an unusual recruit — Labour Party stalwart Anne Page.

Page — who leaves a high-flying job with the Parliamentary Labour Party — is fully aware that her new post as "community liaison officer" with the Canary Wharf consortium may not outlive her one-year contract.

Closely linked with the environment office, Page's defection to "the other side", which is known to have angered some of her Party colleagues (who appear to believe that employees of the London Docklands Development Corporation should be put up against a wall and shot), should please her old friend Jack Cunningham, architect of the new softly-softly approach to development corporations.

While Labour now admits that UDCs are "quite a good thing", it has remained tight-lipped over the thorny question of the LDDC — sensible in the circumstances as Cunningham is in violent disagreement with more militant members down in Docklands. Page, in line with current thinking, says the time has come for "practical solutions."

As to what the sensible-sounding Ms Page will do in the consortium's plush W1 offices is anyone's guess, but thrusting the Party line down the throat of American developers won't be one of them, she assured me; helping local people get jobs will.

The invisible man

WOE betide any conference organiser who tries to hire Digger Des Wilson as a speaker. Des, as we all know, was to have had prime time at the "Building Communities" conference, slotted between Lord Searman, and HRH.

But surprise, surprise, when it came to the big day Des wasn't there. He claimed he'd become increasingly annoyed about the "lack of organisational skills" and pulled out.

It must be sheer coincidence that Shelter, of which he was director, has also pulled out, because of the conference's sponsorship by developer Regalian.

Spiritual guidance

THE Royal Fine Art Commission is one of my favourite organisations. But I came across an astonishing lapse in its generally urbane demeanour in its comments on the proposed new BBC building.

Quite correctly, the RFAC lambasts the corporation for its gutless and irresponsible behaviour over Langham Place and the proposed White City complex.

But its press statement also quotes the words of Harold

Nicolson to Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, when both were governors:

"Only the BBC can teach the public to think correctly, to feel nobly, to enjoy themselves intelligently, to have some conception of what is meant by the good life." (my italics).

The BBC? Responsible for us "thinking correctly"? It makes you wonder how we all managed before Lord Reith. However the quote is partially redeemed by a reference to the corporation's "unerring instinct for the second-rate".

Balancing act

PUBLICATION of the AA's annual financial statement always makes entertaining reading, not least to find out how the expenditure column is matched up to the income column.

This year I see that total expenditure from chairman Alvin Boyarsky's office comes to a modest £340,000, whereas expenditure on first year, intermediate school and the diploma school totals £280,000. And although the publications department contributes a healthy £177,000, its expenditure comes to £220,000 — a discrepancy that is "planned out" in the 87/88 budget.

The introduction notes that the "break-even budget... eases somewhat the chronic cash-flow problem during the current academic year". Next year will see an estimated 8.5 per cent rise in fees, 6 per cent staff salary increase, and anticipated undergraduate enrolment shows the continuing shift towards overseas students, with almost 80 per cent.

10 years ago

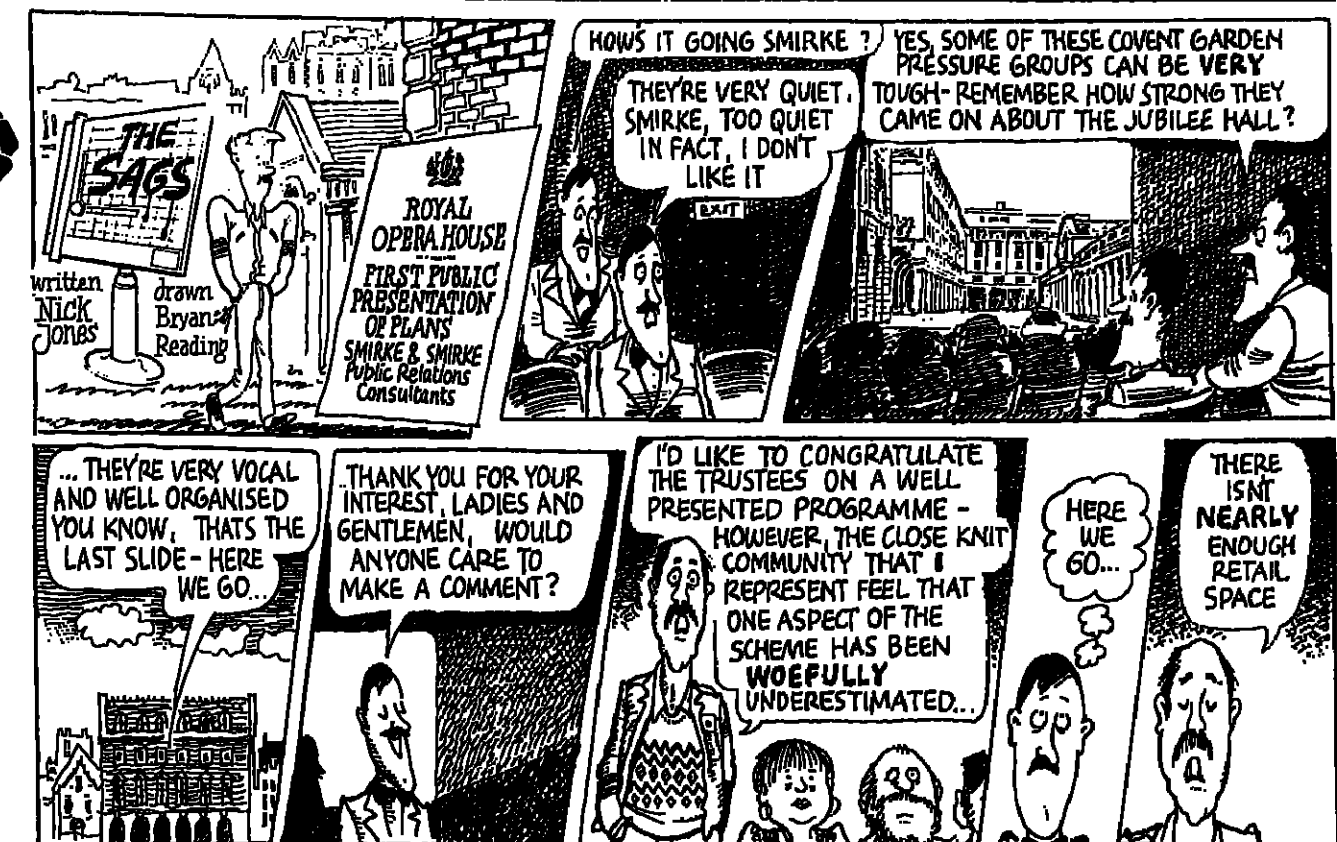
COMMUNITY architect Rod Hackney has won his fight to keep his office at Black Road, Macclesfield.

Macclesfield Council Planning Committee this week withdrew an enforcement notice stating that Hackney had to quit his office, a converted terrace house, by next June.

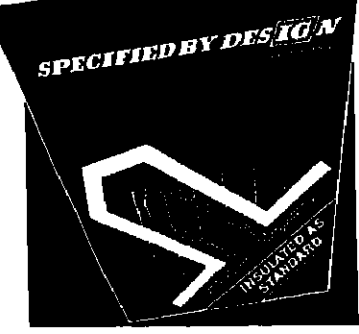
"The committee felt that it didn't want to get into a conflict with Rod Hackney after the relationship it has had in the past," a council spokesman said.

Building Design, November 26, 1976.

Statistics



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BY HENRY HAVERSTOCK

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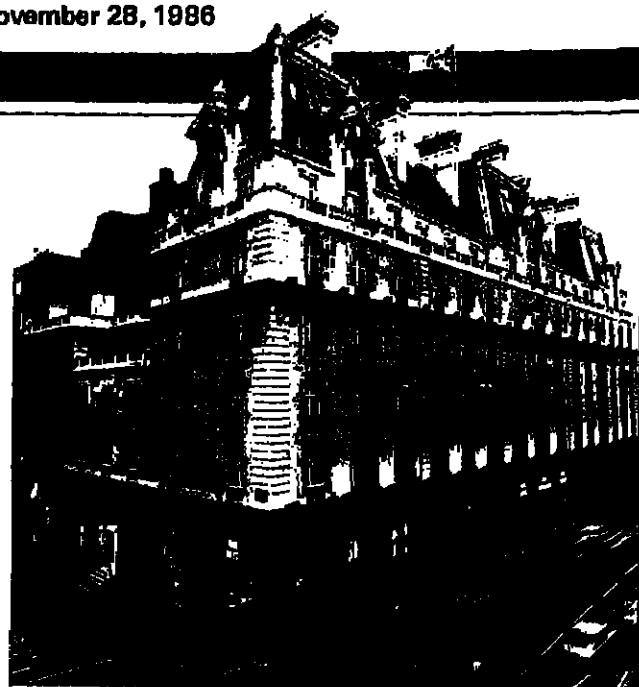
PICCADILLY
LONDON 1906

Architects: Mewès & Davis

Engineer: S Bylander

César Ritz, greatest of hoteliers, followed the success of Johannesburg, Madrid, New York and Paris by lending his name to the last in the chain — London. Dogged by mental illness from 1902, he had little to do directly with the new hotel beyond insisting on the choice of Charles Mewès as architect. Mewès had already shown his skill as a designer of luxury hotels in the Paris Ritz which opened in 1900. With his partner Arthur Davis he began work on the London Ritz following his work on the interiors of the new Carlton Hotel in Pall Mall.

The site, one of the finest in London overlooking Green Park, was occupied by a large red-brick block of service flats known as Walsingham House, built on



concrete raft foundations some 4 to 5ft (1.219 to 1.524m) thick. The new hotel designed to the most luxurious standards comprised 150 bedrooms in suites, each of two bedrooms, a sitting room, bathroom and separate wc, on six floors facing north on to Piccadilly.

Accommodation for guests' servants was arranged opposite on the south side of the access corridor running the length of each floor. Mewès devoted the ground floor to the lavishly decorated public rooms opening off the Grand Gallery.

Structural Steel Classics

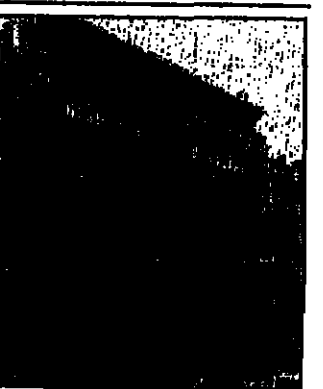
Eighty years of the steel frame in Britain are commemorated today with the announcement of Structural Steel Classics, selected by Owen Luder, Bill and Bob Latter of the British Steel Corporation for their outstanding architectural or technical merit. Certificates will be presented to all architects and engineers of the 16 winners. A book is available from BSC General Sales, Commercial Division-Sections, PO Box 24, Steel House, Rotherham, Cleveland TS10 5QL for £7 inclusive.

Simpsons

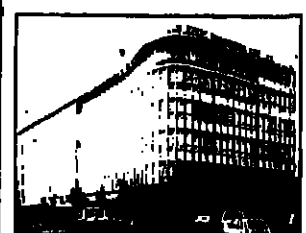
PICCADILLY
LONDON 1938

Architects: Joseph Emberton

Engineers: Helsby, Hamann & Samuely



"The superstructure was largely of welded steel with a Vierendeel girder in the first storey height on the Piccadilly front. Above were light columns as window mullions and short span joist beams between them for the upper floors. The London County Council either could not comprehend such a structure or were too conservative to allow anything but the conventional, for they were not prepared to issue a permit. We proposed an independent investigation of the design, but as this would have involved some two or three weeks' delay the client instructed us to capitulate. The result was that into three of the five upper floors 80 foot simply supported plate girders had, unnecessarily, to be introduced." Conrad Hamann quoted in *AA Journal* June 1960.



Peter Jones

SLOANE SQUARE
LONDON 1938

Architects: Slater & Moberley, William Crabtree, C H Reilly

Engineer: B L Hurst

The previous shop was an accretion of various premises acquired over a number of years. A partial rebuilding had taken place in 1896. Peter Jones the founder, died in 1905 by which time the business had fallen on hard times. Legend has it that in the spring of the following year, John Lewis walked from his Oxford Street shop to the King's Road with 20 £1,000 notes in his pocket and bought it outright.

Before the decision to use a steel frame was taken, a reinforced concrete external wall system was considered. A trial portion of facade was erected with concrete load bearing mullions at 4ft (1.22m) centres but was abandoned as it took too long to "dry out".

Pentley Park Primary School

WELWYN GARDEN
CITY 1948-50

Architect: Hertfordshire County Council (C H Aslin)

Engineer: Ernest Hinchcliffe Hills

"Previously prefabrication had generally taken the form of a single building designed and manufactured as a whole, or of units designed to give buildings of fixed section but unlimited length. The essence of the Hertfordshire system was that it consisted of a set of standard and interchangeable parts which could be assembled in a great variety of ways." *Architectural Review* June 1952. With a firm of constructional engineers, the architects jointly carried out the design and technical development of a system which consisted of a steel frame clad with precast concrete wall and roof.



units. The buildings were initially planned on an 8ft 3in (2.52m) module as recommended in the Wood Report of 1944. Generally satisfactory for primary schools, this large module led to some extravagances in the plans and later buildings were based on a 3ft 4in (1.02m) module. The simple frame on a square grid had stanchions of four equal angles with angle spacers, welded to a baseplate, supporting lattice beams made up of a channel top and flat bottom member with diagonals of rod welded between. Stanchions were produced in three heights and beams in five lengths,

with depths appropriate to the span. Intermediate ribs and bracing were incorporated in support cladding units, windows and doors. The wall cladding and roof units were a modular system of precast concrete roof and wall units, trough shaped in section, screeded in situ for the breeze covering on the upper surfaces and battened out after erection. The wall units, also precast concrete, were covered with aggregate finishes were of varying degrees of success.

Herman Miller Factory

BATH 1977

Architects: Farrell Grimshaw Partnership

Engineers: Peter Brett Associates

Herman Miller is an international firm of office furniture and equipment manufacturers, whose products of a high design standard result from a definite design philosophy. It thinks of this new factory as a "company facility", by which it means something quite different from a factory, but a housing for activities in constant flux which may be curtailed or even abandoned altogether. Should that happen the company would obviously possess a highly saleable or lettable asset. The architects, faced with a client both visually literate and accustomed to thinking in terms of change, have produced a building which pleases on each count. This is not a special "prestige" factory, intended to make a bold statement, but a really run-of-the-mill industrial "shed", lifted by its design to a high level that it seems an entirely new building type with some of the grim associations which a standard factory space normally carries.



National Westminster Tower

LONDON 1981

Architects: R & Partners

Engineers: Paul Frischman Partners

At 600ft, the National Westminster Tower, is the tallest solid structure in England; in all Europe, only Tour Montparnasse in Paris is higher.

The building consists of a core of reinforced concrete containing lifts, staircase, washrooms and main vertical service runs. This core — of irregular, tri-symmetrical shape — extends the full height, rising eventually above the highest office floor. In this rigid structure capable of resisting all lateral wind forces on the building as a whole. Wrapped round this central core are the office spaces divided into three equal sections. Each section is articulated by a series of vertical fins, starting at a different level, supported on a reinforced concrete core and springing from the central core at different roof heights. It is a visually interesting response given to the building, and needed since both the scale and proportion of the tower demand a detail treatment of external cladding, resulting in a strong emphasis.

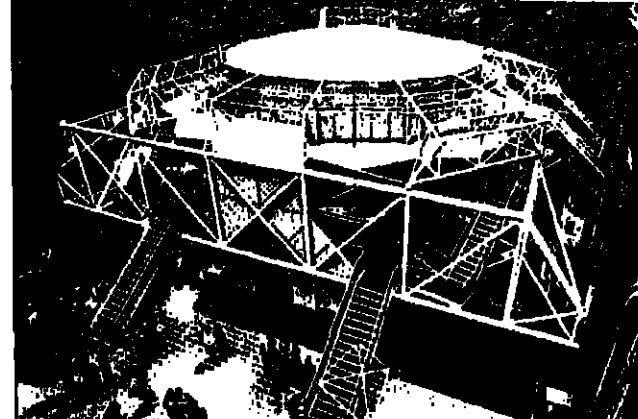
Royal Exchange Theatre

MANCHESTER 1976

Architects: Levitt Bernstein Associates (with Richard Negri)

Engineer: Ove Arup & Partners

Trading ceased in the Edwardian Manchester Cotton Exchange in 1968. In 1974 the building was "listed", a process which (especially for a vast triple-domed structure such as this) entails the embarrassment of finding a new use or ending up with a crumbling white elephant. Fortunately for Manchester, the "99 Theatre Company" which had already played a season in the hall during the 1973 Festival, decided — while all around were sceptical —



that it would make a viable theatre; and they set about interviewing architects. Levitt Bernstein Associates were chosen. Four great piers holding up the central dome had enough spare strength to support new giant welded tubular steel trusses spanning 30m and nearly 5m deep. Similar secondary trusses then span between the two main ones, to complete a square on plan. Within the square, seven radial steel roof trusses define the seven-sided space

of the auditorium itself (seven-sided so that for its main use as a theatre-in-the-round no bank of seating faces directly across to another). The main square framework of trusses supports not only the radial roof trusses but two levels of gallery which seat a further 300 theatregoers. Those galleries are hung from the roof on steel rods an inch in diameter.

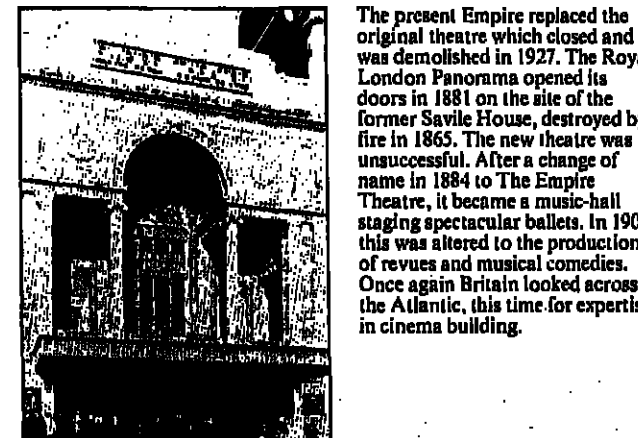
The present Empire replaced the original theatre which closed and was demolished in 1927. The Royal London Panorama opened its doors in 1881 on the site of the former Savile House, destroyed by fire in 1865. The new theatre was unsuccessful. After a change of name in 1884 to The Empire Theatre, it became a music-hall staging spectacular ballets. In 1903 this was altered to the production of revues and musical comedies. Once again Britain looked across the Atlantic, this time for expertise in cinema building.

The Empire Theatre

LEICESTER SQUARE
LONDON 1928

Architects: Thomas W Lamb, with Frank Matcham & Co

"The interior (is) ... gorgeous, sumptuous, luxurious ... it supplies an atmosphere fit for millionaires at a nominal price of one and sixpence ... movies included ..." *Frederic B Townsend, Building* December 1928.



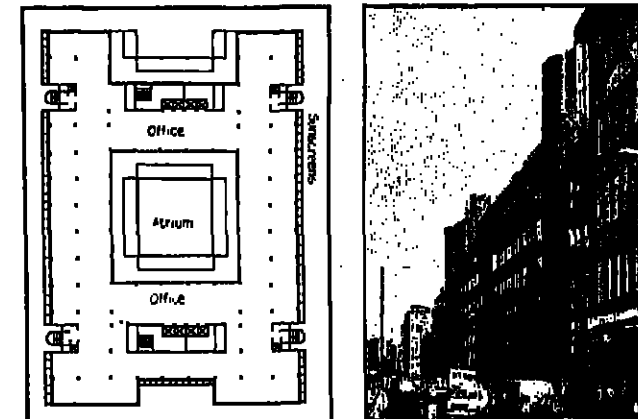
No 1 Finsbury Avenue

LONDON 1984

Architects: Arup Associates

Engineers: Arup Associates

One result of the surflet of lettable office space in London is that any developer contemplating an addition to the stock must take care, even as a purely financial calculation, to provide offices superior to what is available. Such a changed emphasis in the commercial world is well illustrated by this speculative office building in the City, designed by



Karp Associates. In town-planning terms, what has been built already is no more than the first phase of a development in three phases, which ultimately will define two sides of a new urban square.

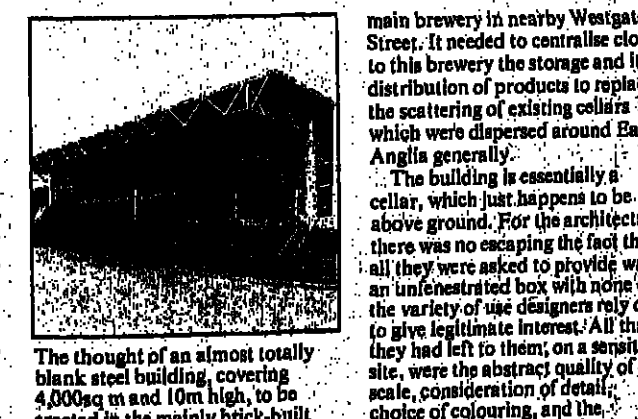
The architects have also been commissioned by another client to design buildings which will complete the remaining two sides of this square.

Greene King Wine & Spirit Store

BURY ST EDMUNDS 1974

Architects: Lyster, Gillet & Harding

Engineers: Conder Southern



The thought of an almost totally blank steel building, covering 4,000sq m and 10m high, to be erected in the mainly brick-built town of Bury St Edmunds was not, understandably, initially welcomed by the local planning authority. Greene King, the client, has its

main brewery in nearby Westgate Street. It needed to centralise close to this brewery the storage and its distribution of products to replace the scattering of existing cellars which were dispersed around East Anglia generally.

The building is essentially a cellar, which just happens to be above ground. For the architects there was no escaping the fact that all they were asked to provide was an unadorned box with none of the variety of the designers' own or they had left to them; on a sensitive site, where the abstract quality of scale, consideration of detail, choice of colouring, and the possibilities offered by landscaping. These limited resources have been convincingly deployed.

At Cosham the team solved many design problems by ruthless simplification. Here, where they have really had a chance to stretch themselves, the same process of simplification has been followed. With the difference that once the overall design had been resolved into one vast shed (nothing could be simpler) all parts of the building were lovingly worked over to bring them to the highest degree of perfection.

IBM wanted a temporary building to house about a 1,000 staff until its permanent head office was built on a nearby site. It has been the achievement of the designers to provide a structure competitive in price and speed of erection with what might have been bought "off

International Garden Festival Exhibition Building

LIVERPOOL 1984

Architects: Arup Associates

Engineers: Arup Associates

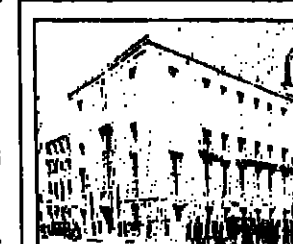
The architects aimed for, and have succeeded in providing, a building which conveys a feeling of celebration, reflecting the idea of festival. They have provided a long, low-lying structure which gently swells out from the grassed car park among which it is set: a structure which seems modest from the outside, but which provides a hugely dramatic interior.

Seven and a half thousand square metres of completely column-free space are covered by a long shallow steel-framed barrel vault, formed from a series of



three-pinned trussed arches, this vault being closed at either end by half-domes in steel framing. The vault is glazed in double-skin translucent polycarbonate sheeting (the biggest use of this material to

date). The half domes are clad in a profiled aluminium sheeting, specially manufactured to have the tapered corrugations needed to cover a three-dimensionally curved surface.



RIBA Headquarters

PORTLAND PLACE
LONDON 1934

Architects: G Grey Wornum

Engineers: K T James & Partners

Heal's

TOTTENHAM COURT
ROAD LONDON 1916

Architects: Smith & Brewer

Engineer: S Bylander

Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts

UNIVERSITY OF EAST
ANGLIA 1978

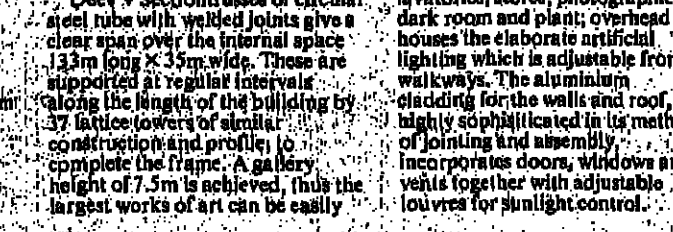
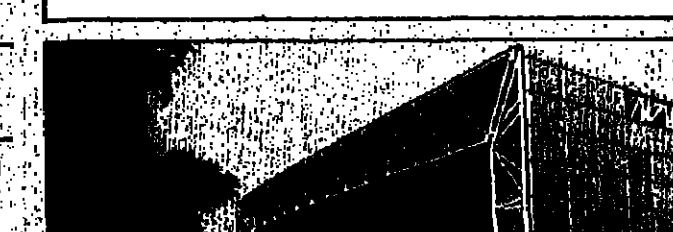
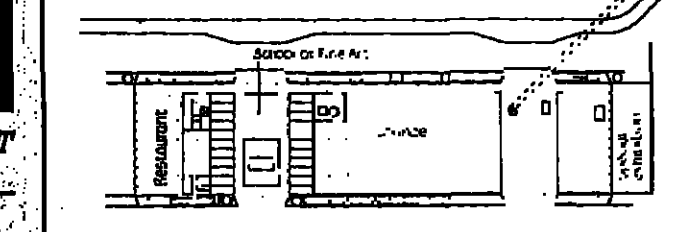
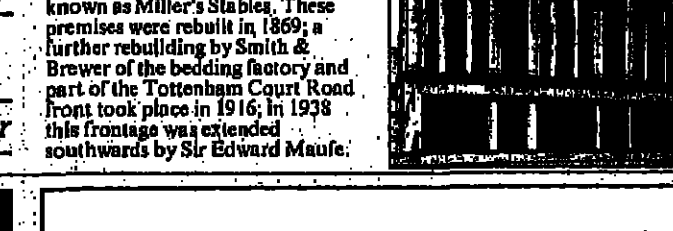
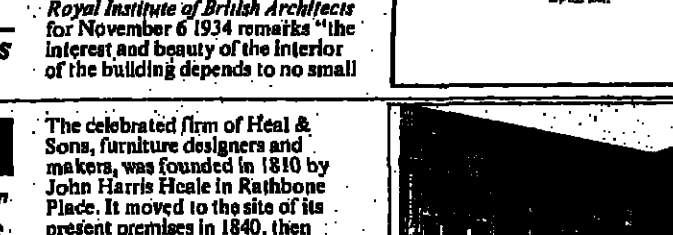
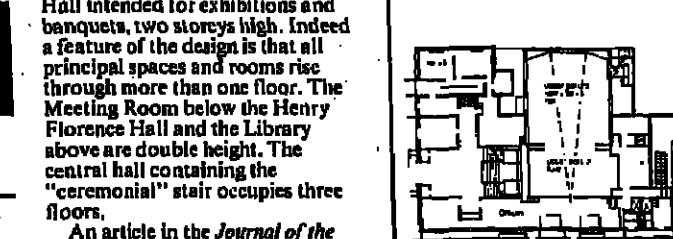
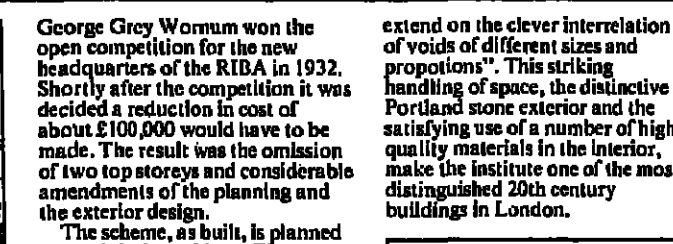
Architects: Foster Associates

Engineers: Anthony Hunt Associates

The same architects and engineers who a few years earlier had been responsible for the low-budget "temporary" IBM building at Cosham were here given the chance in an enviable commission, to show what they could do to house works of art, rather than merely machines.

At Cosham the team solved many design problems by ruthless simplification. Here, where they have really had a chance to stretch themselves, the same process of simplification has been followed. With the difference that once the overall design had been resolved into one vast shed (nothing could be simpler) all parts of the building were lovingly worked over to bring them to the highest degree of perfection.

It is a pity that not been done, the result would have been a bore. As it is, such banes as walls, roof,



accommodated. The deep structure forms a service zone, both along the side walls and at roof level. This 2.4m wide space contains lobbies, laboratories, stores, photographic dark room and plant; overhead it houses the elaborate artificial lighting which is adjustable from walkways. The aluminium cladding for the walls and roof, highly sophisticated in its methods of joining and assembly, incorporates doors, windows and vents together with adjustable louvers for sun/light control.

More thoughts on the RIBA election

From Sydney Downs

WHEN the Prince of Wales made his famous "carbuncle" speech to the RIBA at Hampton Court, many of us saw it as an opportunity for the profession to respond positively after many of the problems of the post-war years. We hoped that we might debate in private and show ourselves in public to be men of vision, with a regard for at least some of the powerful forces of the 20th century.

Since then, the Prince has repeated the act. We are being asked to show our professional concern for some of the major community problems of our time. It doesn't matter, in the greater scheme of things, what name or label we use for them: it is the direction which is important.

I would, therefore, to find a candidate in a vice-presidential campaign including in what can only be called a vicious personal attack. The campaign has become dirty — nearly as dirty as the other politicians down the road in Westminster, or across the sea in Washington. I had hoped that a feeling of common cause and unity of purpose would, at least, lead to fairness within our own ranks.

An important reaction is left to RIBA members — many of whom I hear very often in criticism of that institution. If they are tired of stale in-fighting, petty criticism and personal politics, I hope that they will show it with a large poll. It would well indicate that there is genuine concern among the profession, and show that architects in general would like to respond positively to the Prince's challenge. Would that they may support those who feel the same.

Sydney Downs
Manchester

Roping off the cavity

From K Roland Sallard

ERIC Ambrose's light-hearted proposal (*Letters* November 14) of ending the job on Friday at lunch-time to avoid operatives "brooming" the debris on the slab into the cavity, could well be achieved by resolutely commencing the following Monday morning with a 50mm diameter rope laid along the cavity and supported across the ties placed to catch mortar droppings, throwaways etc, and raised every sixth course.

Such an arrangement would have the desirable advantage over a rigid cavity battens as it, by error — or possibly by the sheer speed and pace of the bricklay — it was built in, then, because of its flexibility, the rope could quite easily be pulled outwards and upwards at one end and re-laid in its proper position for the next lift without disturbing finished work. It has the added advantage of being easily stored away on site when not required.

Such was the habit and successful practice of one elderly

From Maurice McCarthy

THE thoroughly democratic constitution of the RIBA is one of its greatest strengths. The worst outcome of the current presidential election would be for council to be catapulted into an attempt to rig the rules.

Larry Rolland, who ought not to comment on his successor during the election, is quite wrong to describe the election process as "richly comic entertainment". Both Peter McViney and Nigel Woolner are wrong to want to remove the right to elect a president from the membership as a whole.

Equally wrong are those who want to greatly increase the number of sponsors required for an "outside" nomination. The current requirement is 60, the same number as there are council members. This should be compared to the 100 signatures required to call the special general meeting which would be necessary to remove a president from office (By-law 6.16) — and the result of such a meeting cannot be made the subject of appeal (Charter 8.5(a)).

I have greater faith in the common sense and perspicacity of the membership than those denigrating the election process because they are fearful of a Hackney victory. The majority of the membership will have taken measure of the man himself having seen through the hype. For instance, there is no such thing as a "running-mate". Council appoints the policy committee of its own choosing, and only council can determine policy. No president can unilaterally hire or fire institute staff, or detach the RIBA from its role within the Group of Eight.

In the unlikely event of Hackney becoming president and taking such action as he has

"promised", he would not be protected by the institute's indemnity (Charter 12) and could thus be sued in the High Court. More importantly he could be impeached — and would be.

Maurice McCarthy
London W5

From Richard Burton
THE profession is in a survival situation, when a few crucial battles need to be won for once, our key contributions valued, our liability limited, our knowledge base expanded and our morale raised. We need a president who can do that, not one who is a continuation of a tradition that hasn't delivered.

Using an historical example: Montgomery was appropriate to the situation at El Alamein, not the patrician Alexander.

My vote goes to Rod Hackney at this time.

Richard Burton
London NW1

From Brian Blackwood
WHEN I read that Rod Hackney had suggested a sacking (October 10) and a reinstatement (October 17), I thought such actions more appropriate to an American presidential election. But he did at least confine his proposed actions to the body of which I, as one of those who nominated him, trust he will be elected senior vice-president.

And so, what — if you'll pardon the pun — I saw as Hackney making a rod for his own back, is as nothing compared with Andrews' reputedly having told Prince Charles to sack Hackney (November 7), and claiming that "his campaign style is similar to that of Derek Hutton and Arthur Scargill" (November 14).

With such invective directed against Hackney, Andrews has shown just how badly he behaves

under the strain of a mere election campaign — his words being more appropriate to the gutter press than to one seeking leadership of the world's premier architectural institute. One can only draw the conclusion that it is Andrews who is "out of balance" (November 14), and that he should be rejected by the RIBA membership.

Brian Blackwood
Stevenage
Herts

From Jeremy Bell
IS the RIBA an institution which upholds and protects standards of integrity and professional conduct and which fosters prudence and sound judgment among its members?

Are the leaders men of principle who have transcended their own self-interest and are now working for the good of the profession?

No? Then no wonder it is as vulnerable as a ship without a rudder.

"Don't rock the boat" pleads commodore Raymond Andrews. No good — it needs a salvage operation.

I would like to see Rod Hackney land on deck as captain and take firm repair action on three main weaknesses:

● Raise the standards of integrity among the leaders of the profession and regain a place of honour within the construction industry.

● Launch an attack on the ever-increasing volley of contractors' claims which often defy common sense. These sap architects' earnings and tie them up in endless legal complications. We need a claims register in the RIBA, against which one can check prospective contractors.

● Unify and protect architects against spurious claims for

negligence which are becoming big business. Insurers won't stand up for principle, it is too easy for them to pay up rather than face legal costs. The RIBA should defend its members.

With the ship refurbished and set on a proper course, it would be worthwhile boarding — even at twice the fare.

Jeremy Bell
Macclesfield

From Michael Hook
THE introduction of "boyver boy" tactics by the increasingly panicky cheer-leaders representing the Andrews' camp is unseemly, will do their candidate no good, and exposes the thin patina of respectability that hides a ruthless and dedicated group of "back-room boys" firmly set on a course of self-preservation.

Presidential election campaigns, monitored as they are by an insatiable media, are dominated by style first and policy second. In this case, it is ironic that Hackney's consistent style, which over a number of years has done so much to get professional issues externalised into public debate, should now be put up as the prime reason for the rejection of this "impudent upstart".

In terms of the contest the central issue is clear — do architects see their future as being one modelled by an institute ultimately dependent on a dying membership, or are they prepared to place their faith in a younger generation of practitioners who quite clearly have the commitment, determination and energy to carve out a future for themselves and their professional colleagues?

This is the fundamental issue that should determine how the votes are cast.

Michael Hook
London SW4

The Hackney/Rock team offers a dynamic, caring force for our professional future and would urge the undecided to consider their vote in this light.

John Fidler
London W6

Victorian townscape left in the City. Rejecting Palumbo's proposals would be quite consistent with a rethink on Alban Gate.

There is room for large-scale new development within the City boundaries and London Wall is an obvious place to put it.

In contrast, the heart of the City is not the right place. Moreover, there is still the chance for Palumbo to pick up Farrell's Mansion House scheme which even he had to admit, at the 1984 inquiry, was commercially viable. If the City approves Palumbo's plans, it will again be acting with a supreme lack of good sense.

Ken Powell
London SW11

From Ken Powell, secretary, Save Britain's Heritage
YOUR trenchant editorial comments are always worth reading and your attack on the "squabbling wallies" of the City of London is no exception. Terry Farrell's Alban Gate is one of the most positive proposals to come before the City for years and they have rejected it. No wonder that Peter Rees was "unavailable for comment" — he must be squirming with embarrassment.

In the next month or so the City will finally have to make up its mind about Peter Palumbo's Number One Poultry. I would like to think that it will throw out this scheme too, this time for very good reasons. It is relatively small, clumsily designed, and would destroy not a worthless monstrosity like Lee House but one of the few areas of good

Victorian townscape left in the City. Rejecting Palumbo's proposals would be quite consistent with a rethink on Alban Gate.

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Ken Powell
London SW11

From Rebecca Cadie
I IMAGINE there might be a problem letting the shop units in the Sutton High Street development (November 21). Is this due to subsidence or a badly trimmed drawing?

Rebecca Cadie
London W10

The latter. Our apologies — Ed.

From Patricia Stewart
I WAS surprised at your piece entitled "Gender record outrage" (November 14) although it was certainly an eye-catching headline!

I am seeking the inclusion of information on gender on Arkuc forms solely to enable statistics to be extracted concern-

ing the number of women within the profession, and for this I have obtained RIBA Council's support.

It is a purely technical measure and rather unexciting I'm afraid.

It has nothing whatever to do with any debate on whether Arkuc should include titles (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) on registration forms. Nor has it anything to do with alleged discrimination against women architects.

Patricia Stewart
London W1

From David Brockhurst
THE article on next year's International Union of Architects "World Day of Architecture", and the proposal for RIBA to fly a flag as a gesture to this important event, gave me the giggles all morning.

We are told that the RIBA could make more of a contribution for the following year.

Although it would double the expense, can I suggest an equally original idea of two flags for 1987?

David Brockhurst
Coventry

From Frank Newby, FJ Samuels & Partners
IN your issue of November 14, you failed to mention that we were structural engineers for the Kiln Farm project award. As we are out of favour these days, I

Frank Newby
London NW1

Certainly not — our apologies for the omission.

Fruitless search for a true style

From Geoffrey Broadbent, head of school of architecture, Portsmouth Polytechnic

OF course, Franklin Medhurst is right to say (October 17) that monumental buildings have always been used to express authority: social, economic and religious. The histories of architecture are full of the buildings of power: temples, palaces, fortresses, cathedrals, office buildings and so on. Of course, these are fair game for polemical attack but, like it or not, half the vernacular in this country is also rooted in the Classical tradition.

What is more, the devolution of power, the "small is beautiful" view which Medhurst seems to be advocating is just as unacceptable in certain polemical circles. You'd think that nothing brought "power to the people" more directly than building exactly what they want, having taken the available resources, with no "interference" from professionals.

Yet many Third World architects, such as Roberto Segre of Cuba, find this thoroughly objectionable. For when the homeless organise themselves, "invade" land, scrounge materials and do their self-build, they become, so Segre says, mini-capitalists. How much better, he argues, to house them in the bleakest, high-rise, prefabricated flats you can design to induce such anger and frustration that the urban revolution and the "light" thin and transparent "ones of the others."

Of course there's more to Stirling's Staatsgallerie than mere "flavour of the month". There's also the satisfaction of a highly complex brief to do with circulation, the lighting of the galleries and so on. It's the same with Johnson's AT&T in which he had to satisfy meticulous requirements to do with energy conservation, appropriate conditions for working with visual display units and so on. Requirements such as these generated the forms and the fact that superficial critics have latched on to the "Classical" forms to condemn it reveals how little they know, or care, about building performance.

It is hardly surprising that in their attempts to break the stranglehold of International Modernism, some architects should opt for Classical detail, others for vernacular and so on. Most of what they do seems to offer rather more in the way of durability, climate control and so on, than Modernism ever could, which is why I find their work so interesting. But applauding their intentions — which I do — is one thing, but it is a very different thing from suggesting that any of them offer "the only true architecture", which is why I have never done

the Geoffrey Broadbent
Portsmouth

From the womb of CAD

From Tim Eaton, Cambridge Computer Drafting Company

RICHARD Twitchin, in preparing his 14-page special report (November 14), came to Cambridge, the womb of CAD, and to his surprise found himself only at Forum's door. They have ventured recently into mid-budget CAD and no doubt they invited him there. If he did not penetrate Cambridge further it is Cambridge which should express surprise.

We have operated a GDS

openhauer says: "The arch must support itself, and can only fulfil its obligations to the earth through pillars, and so on." So for me the best of the Romanesque represents the purest, the most highly integrated and therefore the most "organic" architecture of all, which is not the same thing as claiming it to be "the only true" one. But I do not seem to be alone in preferring the thick and heavy to the light, the thin and the transparent. Gaudi designed in this way and even Le Corbusier was working towards it in such late works as the Jaouli Houses.

Thick wall construction has so many advantages in terms of thermal capacity, sound insulation etc, so the more one departs from it towards lightness, thinness and transparency, the less "organic" the architecture becomes and the more problems one seems to raise in terms of stability, durability, climate control and so on.

Such structures may be very fine for plants, but they cause considerable problems for real live human beings. Which is why I am fascinated by the world-wide attempts to move away from lightness, thinness and transparency towards more durable architecture again. You can see the transition very clearly in the current Academy exhibition with Stirling's "thick and heavy" rooms contrasting very strongly with the "light thin and transparent" ones of the others.

As for Herb Meyer (November 7) I'm sorry he thinks I was attacking him. On the contrary, since I too am prone to dash off the odd letter to the press when I have the time, I was admiring his stamina.

But I do wish he'd read what I actually wrote instead of dreaming up things he thinks I should have said and then attacking them. Nowhere, ever, have I described Classicism as "the only true architecture". I don't believe there can be such a thing, and even if there were, it couldn't be Classicism or International Modernism.

As a committed pluralist, I reject the idea of any one "true" anything although naturally I have my preferences. They seem very close to Meyer's in that like his — and Ruskin's — my spirits are lifted most of all by the Gothic and I too like my architecture to be "organic".

Except that neither Ruskin, nor Sullivan, Wright nor even Meyer seemed to define very clearly what they mean by "organic". They give ambiguous descriptions: it seems to look like forms from nature (Ruskin, Sullivan), to grow like natural forms (Sullivan, Wright), to be "all of a piece" in some unspecified way.

I prefer Schopenhauer's description: I even quoted it in my inaugural lecture to the effect that "The whole mass of the building, if left to its own devices would collapse to a mere heap or clump, tied... to the earth, to which gravity continually presses... But this tendency, this force, is resisted by architecture... (so)... the beauty of a building lies in the obvious adaptation of (each) part... directly to the stability of the whole (so that)... the position, dimensions and form of (each) part must have so necessary a relation to the whole that if any one part were taken away the whole would fall to pieces..."

That's a precise description, for me, of what I find most profoundly satisfying about the Romanesque in which, as Sch-

system in Cambridge since 1981, first as Twist & Whitley, and following reorganisation in 1984, as Cambridge Computer Drafting (CCDC) jointly with Archimage Architects, close by in Ely.

CCDC acts as a draughting bureau for several of the East Anglian practices and other construction organisations in southern England. The next meeting of the regional GDS user group will be in our office. Like Scott Brownrigg & Turner, we also enjoyed a friendly relationship with Applied Research of Cambridge (our offices were only 200 metres apart) until McDonnell Douglas put the dampers on their GDS boffins.

RH Partnership in Cambridge have run a Medusa CAD system by Cambridge Interactive Systems for a very long time. This is potentially a very useful system but not yet fully adapted to architectural use.

There are several other firms in the Cambridge area tentatively picking their way up the investment ladder from low to high CAD. Some are exploring the option of remote workstations, which can provide the

more versatile software at lower capital cost, by linking into a central system by backbone or microwave. This has the added benefit of leaving the system management with the more experienced firm and allowing the user to concentrate on his primary task of producing drawings.

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Exhibitions

GRAZ ROOTS

Work by the controversial Austrian architect Günther Domenig is the subject of an exhibition at the Architectural Association until December 6. Tim Ostler reports.

WHEN Günther Domenig flew into London to attend the opening of his exhibition at the Architectural Association, wild explosions burst forth outside and fires raged across the capital.

He had arrived just in time for Guy Fawkes Night. It was an appropriate enough entry for an architect whose own house, being built to resemble a pile of rubble at the foot of a hillside, is intended to reflect the energy released when boulders tumble down a mountain and shatter into fragments.

Domenig was due to give a talk to accompany his exhibition, but pulled out at the last moment. When I asked him why, his answer was characteristic. He had, after all, given a talk to AA students only a year or so ago, so what was there that was new to say?

Thanks to his most famous creation the Zentralsparkasse (or Z-Bank) in Favoriten, outside Vienna, Domenig is already well-established as the middle-aged enfant terrible of Austrian architecture, an alien bursting messily out of the stomach of Austria's dominant "lederho-

sen conservatism".

His style is a long way from his more cosmopolitan contemporaries in Vienna. Because of its mountains, Austria remains psychologically split between valleys, to the extent that an architect like Domenig can be working in Graz, only 100 miles from the capital, and yet still feel isolated. This was an advantage when Domenig came to design the Z-Bank as, unlike Viennese architects, he finds no difficulty in freeing himself from the legacy of Hoffmann, Loos and Wagner. In a reference to Vienna quoted in the catalogue to the exhibition, he says: "I have always associated it with a death-wish and a feeling of decay: it's a place in which to destroy oneself".

This observation seems at first ironic, in view of the

menacing appearance of much of Domenig's work. But the kind of self-destruction to which he refers has little to do with the spectacularly explosive metaphors displayed in many of his buildings. Instead of the complex and seductive frivolity of the Viennese school, the sensual connotations of his work are direct, impolite and personal: the Z-Bank looks a little like a suburban avalanche — or perhaps a film, frozen in mid-frame, of a bomb-damaged building being pulled down.

The banking hall inside, meanwhile, is sort of cabinet of Dr. Domenig. The impression is created that for Domenig, it is excessive refinement and not anarchy which is the true enemy of life; elsewhere, he has designed a café inspired by a saying from Kierkegaard: "As long as I

have the arrow in my breast, I am living."

This kind of romantic sentiment is not something commonly associated with the Teutonic manner. But the Austrians, do not share the German or Swiss feeling for precision. According to Domenig they are the sloppiest and least precise of all German-speaking cultures, and dreamers in the Eastern European tradition. It is also not generally appreciated that until the mid-50s, Austria was occupied by Soviet troops. The proximity of the Iron Curtain continues to hover with the national consciousness, and a sense of melancholia pervades the Austrian soul.

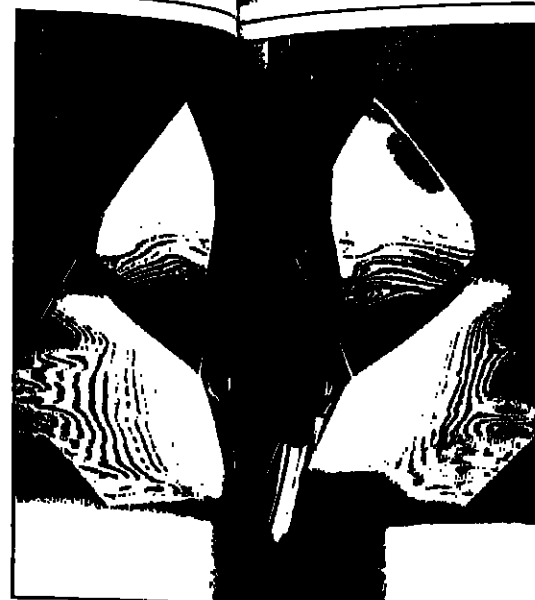
Architecture is one of those arts where it's possible for practitioners to be quite success-

ful without ever having to expose their true personality to public view in any meaningful way. But Domenig's prime aim is the exploration of the emotional element in architecture: faced with comments about the lack of right-angles in his work, his reply is: "People aren't square. Their emotions aren't square either." In his buildings, Domenig attempts to come to terms with, and express, his own childhood perceptions of architecture.

It is arguable that an architect has no right to adopt such personal tactics unless it's for the purpose of designing his own house. If so, Domenig has the perfect excuse in the case of the centrepiece of the exhibition, the Steinhaus ("Stone house") near Steindorf in Carinthia. It is a house he is building for himself which will double as a study centre for about 20 people. This project is a labour of love; the personal element goes very deep indeed, as he inherited the site from his grandmother, and has known the landscape since childhood.

It is interesting to speculate whether inhabitants of mountainous countries possess a different sense of space from the kind enjoyed by people from less dramatic landscapes. Physical movement in the Alps is likely to be composed as much of vertical or of horizontal vectors: Fredi Murer, director of the Swiss film "Alpine Fire", explained recently how he had attempted to reflect this by panning shots vertically instead of horizontally.

It is this very three-dimensionality of the landscape that



Detail model of the Nixnutznix.

strikes the visitor to Switzerland, or Austria; and the extent which the Steinhaus reflects landscape is no accident. The Z-Bank was biological. Steinhaus is mineralogical. Its plan is like splintered glass, its external forms were shaped from those of snow-capped mountains and those of traditional architecture with aid of a computer program devised by Domenig's collaborator Wolf-Plotting. In Domenig aims to recall boulders that break off a mountain and tumble into valleys, like icebergs floating in a sea of snow.

The Steinhaus is only three marked examples of Domenig's preoccupation with an architecture that is "the projection of inner life upon the environment". Opening the exhibition, Peter Cook referred to the peculiar repressed energy of the drawings. Cook also described as an explosive intensity, in which Domenig attempts to chart his

conscious.

An architect's contemplation of his early subconscious perceptions of architecture can very easily become mixed up with more conventional Freudian complexes and, like that other architectural individualist Panchito Guedes, Domenig has invented a fantasy world of his own to make sense of the various bizarre manifestations of his art. Memorable monsters are born as side-effects of the creative process. His most grandiose conception, now on display for the first time in Britain, is the bird Nixnutznix. Built of 2,500 parts, and 7m long, this metal flying creature looks like a combination of Concorde, a pterodactyl and a huge fountain-pen, and is an expression of a personal obsession going back to childhood: as a child Domenig always wanted to be able to fly. It was originally developed for the entrance of another branch of the Z-Bank. Domenig became so preoccupied with it, however, that he bought it back and has allocated it a room in the Steinhaus.

But, lest Domenig be dismissed as an impractical fantas-



Banking Hall in the Zentralsparkasse, Vienna.

tic architect, it should be stressed that one of the most remarkable aspects of Domenig's jagged architecture, is the thoroughness with which it is engineered.

However tentative the drawings, we can be sure that the Steinhaus will be detailed with conviction, if not with the dispassionate objectivity of a Foster or a Meier.

Domenig does not work from forms that materials dictate. He decides on the form and then works out how to build it, starting with free sketches, then models, before moving on to exact drawings. Free forms are analysed and broken down into a systematic order of triangular planes that enable it to be realised in steelwork of form-work.



Rikhi Retner's boutique, Graz.

Exhibitions



Günther Domenig with a model of the bird Nixnutznix exploding from a stone.

petence in more conventional architectural terms, the AA exhibition displays drawings and models of two competition-winning designs for buildings at Graz Technical University: the faculty of law, economics and social science, displaying the same shard-like formal intervention as Domenig's "Rikki Reiner" boutique, and the faculty of architecture and engineering, in which the clashing geometries are all-pervading.

Domenig has recently been acclaimed as a pioneer of what some call the "new spirit" — as if what the world needs now is yet another new architectural fashion around which the young and impressionable can cluster. Although confessing himself to be excited by some of the splintered architecture now snatching clients all over Europe, his final word is hard to answer: "I would prefer it if architectural critics and art historians just wrote poems about my work."

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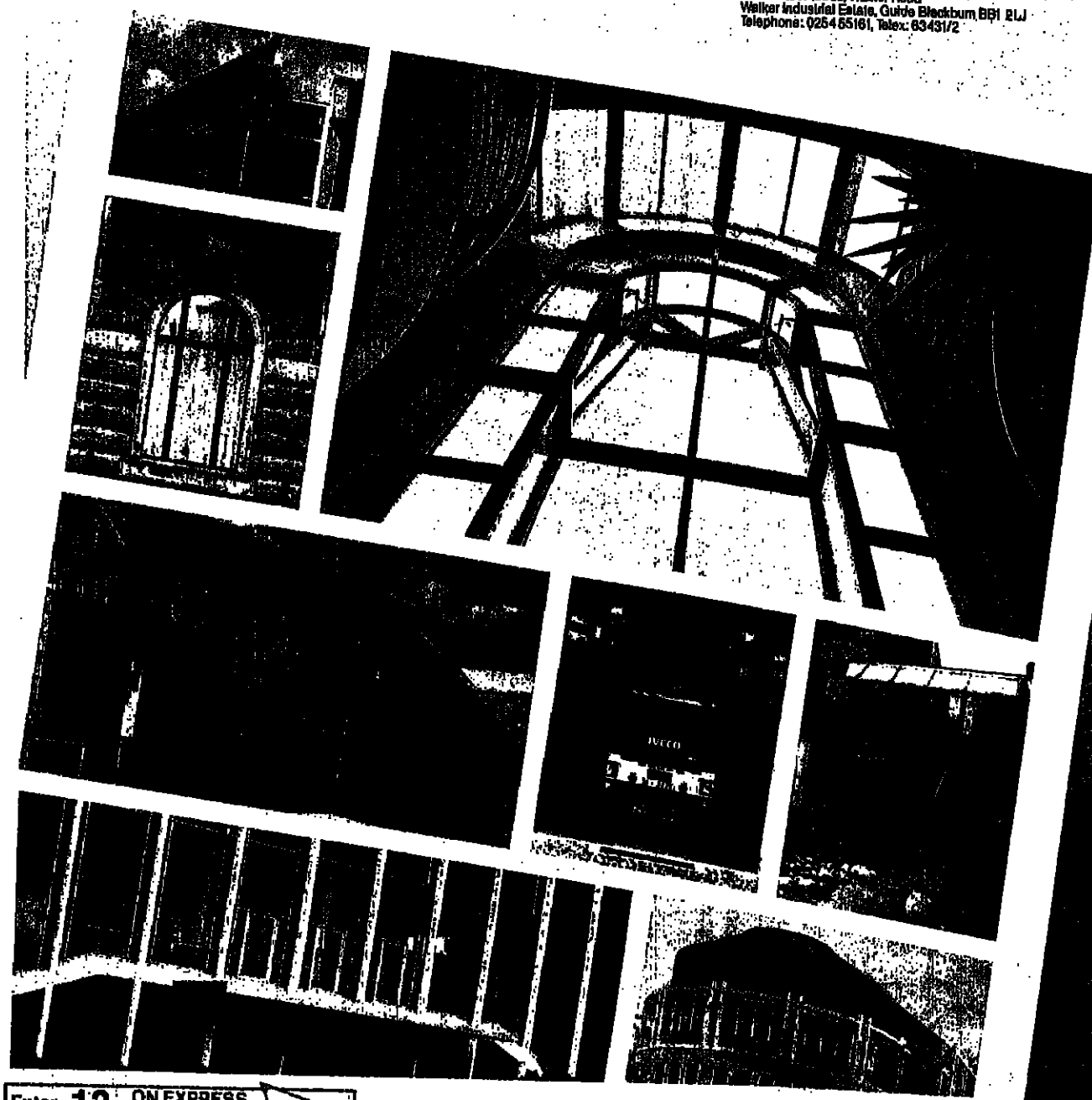
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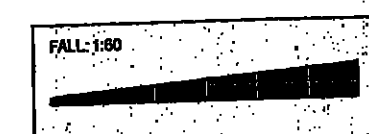
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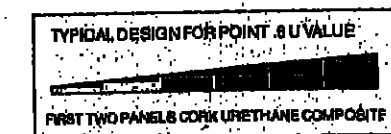
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Building Communities

BUILDING HISTORY

Nick Wates and Charles Knevitt chronicle the road to the rise of community architecture.



Conference organisers: Nick Wates, Caroline Theobald, Jim Snodden with

PIONEERING PROJECTS

1969 Shelter Neighbourhood Action Project (SNAP), Liverpool installs resident architect to help a community group.

Ralph Erskine sets up an office in a former undertaker's shop in Byker, Newcastle and involves residents in slum property in designing their new council homes.

1971 North Kensington Amenity Trust formed as partnership between voluntary organisations and the local authority and embarks on multi-million pound mixed-use redevelopment of land under an elevated motorway. Architects: Franklin Stafford.

1972 ASSIST formed in Glasgow pioneering rehabilitation of tenements involving the residents and leading to development of community-based housing associations.

Interaction opens first city farm built on derelict site in Kentish Town, London.

First working community set up at 5 Dryden Street, London, by Rock Townsend.

1974 Completion of Black Road No 1, Macclesfield; the first self-help General Improvement Area. Architect: Rod Hackney & Associates.

Birmingham City Council embarks on rehabilitation programme for substandard private terraced housing by setting up locally based project offices.

Covent Garden Forum established; the first non-statutory neighbourhood council in the country with representatives from all sections of the community.

1978 Wirksworth Project launched by the Civic Trust which funded architect Gordon Mitchell to set up a local base in the town and work with all sections of the community.

1979 Greater London Council's PSSIAK scheme at Adelaide Road, Camden, North London, occupied by tenants. The first SAR project in the UK (shell housing within which tenants have complete freedom of internal layout).

Ludgvan Jubilee Hall completed in Cornwall; a village community centre conceived and partially constructed by the local community with architect Robert Poynton & Associates.

1981 Completion of Lewisham Self-Build Housing Scheme using the Walter Segal system.

Launch of Derry Inner City Project to rejuvenate the city centre using self-help and a trust involving all sections of the community. By 1986 500 people were employed on the Derry project.

1982 The Weller Street Co-op, Liverpool, the country's first new-build co-op, opened with a carnival. Architect: Bill Halsall of Wilkinson Hindle & Partners.

Planting ceremony to mark start of Hackney Grove Community Garden by Free Form Arts Trust.

1983 Tenants move into refurbished flats on the Lea View Estate, Hackney; the first refurbishment of local authority flats in which tenants were fully involved. Architects: Hunt Thompson.

1984 Go-ahead given for Town & Country Planning Association's Lightmoor Project for a resident-planned new town in Shropshire.

Coin Street Community Builders secure site for multi-million development on prime central London site.

1985 January: Government approves funding for £6.5 million mixed development by the Eldonian Housing Association, Liverpool. Architects: Wilkinson Hindle & Partners.

March: Jubilee Hall Development, Covent Garden, starts on site; a mixed development by a consortium of local voluntary and community organisations with developers Speyhawk. Architects: Covent Garden Housing Project.

March: Houses at Roan Court, Macclesfield go on the market; the first private speculative estate in which purchasers could be involved in the design of their homes and help construct them. Architects and developers: Rod Hackney & Associates.

April: Colquhoun Street self-build scheme in Stirling starts on site providing the most comprehensive support system yet for self-builders without capital. Architects: Rod Hackney & Associates.

July: Opening of Lambeth Community Care Centre by Ted Cullinan Architects.

1986 June: Opening of Poplar Play Centre for the under fives; conceived and managed by local parents. Architects: Community Land Use.

September: Whitechapel Development Group's Community Plan for Whitechapel shortlisted by Tower Hamlets Council.

October: Opening of Hindle House Community Centre in Hackney where Hunt Thompson Associates are teamed up with Free Form Arts Trust.

GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK

1968 Home Office launches Urban Aid Programme, community development projects and education priority areas, two weeks after Enoch Powell's "Rivers of Blood" speech.

Town & Country Planning Act, 1968: required that the public must be adequately informed and consulted before approval of plans. Emphasised greater citizen participation in the whole planning process.

1969 Skeffington report published, *People and Places*: The world's first official government enquiry into the methods of public participation.

Housing Act, 1969: encouraged improvement of houses and neighbourhoods rather than wholesale demolition and rebuilding.

1972 Conservative Government commissions inner area studies.

1973 Home Office sets up Urban Deprivation Unit.

1974 Housing Act switches emphasis from new build to refurbishment and introduces GIAs and HAAs. Comprehensive community programmes set up.

1977 Home Office Community Development Projects closed down.

Labour Government publishes inner cities White Paper.

DoE takes over responsibility for inner cities from Home Office.

1980 DoE sets up Urban Development Corporations (for London Docklands and Merseyside) and Enterprise Zones.

1981 William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, commissions enquiry into the Brixton riots of April from Lord Scarman. *The Scarman Report*, published in November, identified environmental as well as social, economic and racial factors as one of the underlying causes; advocated giving local communities a

greater say in determining their own affairs.

1982 Urban Initiatives Fund set up by DoE for financing community enabling schemes including the RIBA's Community Projects Fund.

1984 DoE establishes Special Grants Programme (supersedes Urban Initiatives Fund) to award direct grants to voluntary organisations operating nationally and regionally to cover revenue costs. 1984/5 £1 million; 1985/6 £1.5 million; 1986/7 £1.8 million; 50 per cent to be matched from other sources. Recipients include ACTAC, RIBA's Community Architecture Group etc.

1985 April: Government announces City Action Teams (CATS).

June: Government launches Urban Housing Renewal Units (UHRU) to help local authorities tackle the problems of their rundown estates by involving residents and introducing local estate-based management.

1986 "Stop the Levy Deal Campaign" launched to stop developers at Tolmers Square London.

Government scraps Covent Garden redevelopment plan.

1975 Term "Community Architecture" coined by Charles Knevitt in a profile of Rod Hackney, "Community Architect Mark I", *Building Design*, July 11

1977 Black Rod GIA I, Macclesfield, featured on BBC Television's

MISCELLANY

Partial collapse of 21-storey Ronan Point block kills five

people and marks the beginning of the end for municipal housing designed and managed at arms length.

1971 Brian Anson, deputy principal planner on Greater London Council's Covent Garden team resigns and starts working for the community associations.

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Manchester. Founder members include Ian Finlay.

1981 Riots in Brixton, South London; Toxteth, Liverpool; Moss Side, Manchester; St Pauls, Bristol; Handsworth, Birmingham.

1982 "The Architect as Enabler" community architecture conference held at the RIBA, the first occasion on which residents have been invited to speak at the institute.

Formation of Matrix Community Design Service, Cardiff, Community Land and Work-space (CLAWS), London & Heat Development, Dundee.

1983 Wester Hailes Community Design Unit set up on a 1960s peripheral council suburb outside Edinburgh.

1984 Formation of CTAC (Northern Ireland), Community Networks, Lambeth Planning Aid Service and Technical Services Agency, Glasgow.

1985 March: Monthly column on community architecture started by Nick Wates in *Building Design*.

March: Dr Robert Runcie,

Archbishop of Canterbury, endorses community architecture in a speech.

April: Ned Wallace, co-ordinator of Community Design Service, Cardiff elected chairman of ACTAC.

May: RIBA CAG hosts reception for financiers to encourage private sector investment in community architecture projects.

June: Berthold Lubetkin, the pioneering modern architect, attacks community architecture in the RIBA president's first invitation lecture.

July: Royal Society of Arts conference on Practical Conservation: The Third Force, London.

July: Shelter's new director calls for dweller control to become the "fundamental principle" of housing policy.

September: Riots in St Pauls, Bristol and Handsworth, Birmingham.

Riots at Broadwater Farm, North London. 240 injured. One policeman hacked to death.

December: Archbishop of Canterbury, Commission on Urban Priority Areas publishes *Faith in the City: A Call for Action by Church and Nation*.

1986 January: Secretary of State for the Environment, Kenneth Baker, says he hopes community architecture will become the "mainstream" of the profession.

February: RIBA policy committee refuses to endorse the nomination of Rod Hackney as president of the UIA for 1987, counter to the recommendation of its UIA sub-committee.

Policy committee's decision endorsed by council in May.

March: Rod Hackney gives keynote paper on Building Communities to Tory Reform Group annual conference, Oxford.

March: The Labour Party's shadow housing minister promises new emphasis on co-operative rather than municipal housing.

June: Launch of *The Limehouse Petition* to halt a discredited £70 million scheme for Limehouse Basin in East London by private developers and to replace it with a show-piece urban regeneration project.

Signatories include: Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP; Dr John Marks, Chairman of the British Medical Association Council; Reverend Jim Thompson, Bishop of Stepney; Lord Kennet, President of the Architecture Club.

July: Christopher Jones, head of degree course, Hull School of Architecture and member of Architects and Builders Co-operative (ABC) Hull, Ltd, elected as chairman of ACTAC.

September: RIBA's second CUDAT in Hull abandoned after widespread allegations of mishandling by community groups, ACTAC and Rod Hackney.

October: Northern Ireland Housing Executive agrees to demolition of Divis Flats following campaign by residents helped by Town & Country Planning Association.

October: Rod Hackney launches campaign for RIBA presidency forcing an election.

October: Lord Scarman revisits Brixton five years after his inquiry report and says that more needs to be done.

October: Tom Woolley appointed as Head of Hull School of Architecture.

June: Visits Community Design Service, Cardiff. Presents the first annual Times/RIBA Community Enterprise Awards at the RIBA in London. Public reconciliation of the Prince and Rod Hackney following the "Divided Britain" controversy.

October: Visits Colquhoun Street self-building housing scheme in Stirling. Addresses 50th anniversary conference of the National House-Building Council. Attacks private house builders for ignoring "festering" inner cities and concentrating on greenfield sites.

November: Gives keynote address at the Building Communities Conference in London. Launches the Inner City Trust. Inner City Aid and the National Community Aid Fund.

1987 February: Visits Black Road, Macclesfield, and the Liverpool housing co-operatives.

February: Addresses the Institute of Directors' annual convention in London; calls for commerce, industry and professions to help "build up socially and financially stabler communities" and warns of "the potential long-term problems of social unrest".

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March

Dateline

This week

Saturday
Building communities: the role of the architect, a half-day workshop organised by RIBA as part of the Building Communities Conference. Venue: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Details: 01-580 5533.

Tuesday
Lecture by Murray Grigor on Charles Mackintosh including films from the 60s. Venue: Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society, 870 Garscube Road, Glasgow G20. 12.20-2pm. Details: 041-946 0600.

Tuesday
Lecture on landscape architect and architecture: A creative collaboration by Brian Clouston (landscape architect). Venue: Fine Art Lecture Theatre, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Details: Peter Willis, School of Architecture, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Tuesday
London burning — Tokyo rising, lecture by Nigel Coates of Brunson Coates. Venue: RIBA, 66 Portland Place.

London W1. 6.15pm. Details: RIBA, 01-580 5533.

Tuesday-Wednesday
Practical claims evaluation, a two-day course organised by Legal Studies & Services. Venue: Gloucester Hotel, London SW7. Details: Jackie Lee, 01-236 4080.

Wednesday
Planning law in action, a half-day course. Venue: South Bank Polytechnic, Faculty of the Built Environment, Wandsworth Road, London SW6 2JZ. Cost: £25. Details: Jill Reynolds, South Bank Polytechnic, 01-928 8989.

Wednesday
Nurseries and plants, lecture by John Hurvey. Organised by the Georgian Group. Venue: The Linnean Society Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. Details: 01-377 1722.

Wednesday
Urban landscape in Japan, lecture by Derek Lovjoy. Venue: Polytechnic of Central London, Marylebone Road, London W1. 6.15pm. Details: Len Harris or Lawrence Revill, 01-1234 (ext 3270 or 3274).

Thursday-Friday
The changing world of steel construction, national structural steel conference. Venue: Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Cost: £207. Details: Conference Secretary, 29 High Street, Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey RH11 4HF. Tel: (073782) 2291.

Thursday
Management of maintenance in health care buildings, symposium organised by the Institute of Hospital Engineering. Venue: Institute of Marine Engineers, Mark Lane, London E3. 10am-4.30pm. Cost: Members £55, non-members £60. Details: Institute of Hospital Engineering, (0705) 823 196.

Thursday
Sound insulation of buildings and building elements, one-day meeting organised by the Institute of Acoustics and the Building Research Establishment. Venue: Building Research Station, Carston, Watford WD2 7JR. Details: Building Research Station (0923) 674040.

Thursday
Will the real trees please stand up? Lecture by professor Happold.



Until December 6 Gunther Domenig, Steinhaus — Stonehouse and other projects. Venue: Architectural Association, 34-36 Bedford Square, London W1. Details: Architectural Association, 01-636 0974.

University of Bath
Venue: The Huntington Centre, The Vineyards, Bath BA1 5NA. 6.15pm-8pm. Cost: Admission £2, concessions £1. Details: (0225) 333895.

Thursday-Friday
The conversion, restoration and renovation of old buildings, conference.

Venue: Royal Aeronautical Society
Headquarters, Hamilton Place, London W1. Cost: Two-day registration £250, one-day registration £130. Details: Mack-Brooks Conferences, Fortin Place, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0RN. Tel: Hatfield (07072) 75641.

Exhibitions

Saturday — January 18
The Oldham Road, photographs by Charlie Meehan on the route to Oldham. Venue: Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester. Details: Cornerhouse, 061-228 7621.

Until December 3
Timber in architecture. Venue: Strathclyde University, Exhibition Gallery, Department of Architecture & Building Science. Details: Dag Mork Ules, Consul General, 031-226 5701.

Tuesday — December 10
The work of Glasgow-based members of the Association of Consultant Architects. Venue: Istock Brickwork Design Centre, 13 Clarendon Gardens, Glasgow. Details: 041-332 3202.

Tuesday — December 19
Interior views, exhibition of watercolours by Laurence Wallace. Venue: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Details: RIBA 01-580 5533.

Wednesday — December 20
Ruins of glamour, glamour of ruins, an installation of work by Glyn Banks, Hannah Vowles, Ed Baxter, Simon Dickson, Karen Elliot, Gabriel Rick-Gibson, Andy Hopson, Tom McGlynn, Stefan Stachurski. Venue: Chisenhale Studios, Chisenhale Road, London E3. Wednesday-Saturday 1-6pm. Details: 01-981 6617.

Wednesday-Friday
Design moves, exhibition of the work of the MA degree students of furniture design and technology at the Buckinghamshire College. Venue: Buckinghamshire College, Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe. Details: Buckinghamshire College.

Thursday-Friday
Changing world of steel construction, national conference organised by BCSA, BSC and the Steel Construction Institute. Venue: Cumberland Hotel, London W1. Details: Conference Secretary, 29 High Street, Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey. Tel: (073782) 2291.

December 5-12
Exhibition of award-winning schemes in the RIBA president bronze and silver medals for architecture in education.

Venue: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Details: 01-580 5533.

Until December 6
The conservation areas of Croydon exhibition organised by the Croydon Society. Venue: Croydon Central Library, Mint Walk, Croydon. Details: Robin Redsell 01-731 1271 (ext 127).

Until December 11
Flights of fancy, David Smith painted wood and mixed media. Venue: Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, Kensington, London SW7. Monday-Thursday 10.00-5.00. Closed Friday, Saturday 10.00-5.30. Sunday 2.30-5.30. Details: Crafts Council, 12 Waterloo Place, London SW1 4AU. Tel: 01-030 4811.

Until December 12
Photographs of 18th century Irish and English gardens by Geoffrey James. Venue: RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1. Monday-Friday 11am-5pm. Saturday 10am-1pm. Closed Sundays. Admission free. Details: 01-580 5533.

Until December 19
Micros in design. Venue: The Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU. Details: 01-839 8000.

Until December 19
Sculpture and bone drawings, exhibition of the work of Bryan Kneale to mark the opening of the Henry Moore Gallery. Venue: The Henry Moore Gallery, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EL. Details: 01-584 5020.

Until December 19
CAD microcomputers and design. Venue: Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1. Mondays and Tuesdays 10am-6pm, Wednesdays to Saturdays 10am-8pm, Sundays 1-6pm. Details: 01-839 8000.

Until December 20
Landscape with ruins, exhibition of photographs of 18th century French and English gardens by Geoffrey James. Venue: RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1. Details: RIBA 01-580 5533.

Until December 20
Julian Opie recent sculpture. Venue: Lisson Gallery, 66-68 St. Street, London NW1. Details: 01-739 2086/262 1578.

Until December 24
Exhibition of works from the National Art Library describing English country-house. Venue: Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7. Details: Mike Beaufort (0800) 470566.

Until January 1
Design for growth, exhibition of 50 shortlisted products for the Mobil Design Award for small firms competition. Venue: Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU. Details: Design Council, 01-839 8000.

People

Alsop Barnett & Lyall announce that Clifford Barnett has retired from the practice. The practice will be known as Alsop & Lyall.

Richard Watson Associates have moved to 8 Avenue Crescent, London W3 8EW. Tel: 01-892 0308/1258.

Subscription details

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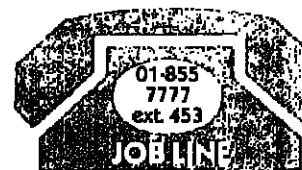
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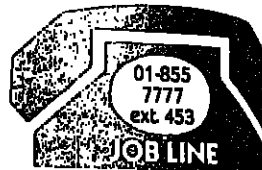
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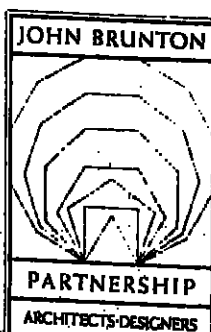
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